

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON  
(DFC/USPS-29, 31-33)

The United States Postal Service hereby files its responses to the above listed interrogatories, filed on June 13, 2006. The responses to DFC/USPS-30 and DFC/USPS-34 are still being prepared.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF CARLSON

**DFC/USPS-29.** With reference to specific automated postal equipment, please describe how the Postal Service will process a stamped First-Class #10 envelope that weighs between 1.1 and 2.0 ounces and that is 0.3 inches thick. Assume that the letter is deposited loose in a collection box. In your response, with reference, as appropriate, to testimony filed in this docket, please identify which shape-based cost estimate would apply to this #10 envelope and which rate would apply.

**RESPONSE:**

A stamped envelope that is 0.3 inches in thickness and deposited loose in a collection mail box will be culled out during the fine-cull on the Advanced Facer Canceling System (AFCS). The mail piece will be manually faced and cancelled either by hand or by mechanized canceling equipment. See response to DFC/USPS-32 for the thickness specifications of letter automation equipment. The mail piece will then be routed to a DBCS with expanded capabilities (see USPS-T-42, page 7, line 17), if available; otherwise the piece will be routed to a manual operation. Subsequent processing on automation equipment will depend on the presence of DBCS machines with expanded capabilities at the destination facility. If unavailable, the mail piece will be routed to manual operation at the destination facility.

The Postal Service does not develop shape-based cost estimates based on a combination of thickness and weight. Shape-based cost estimates based solely on weight are available in the response to DBP/USPS-40.

The applicable rate for such a mail piece is discussed in the response to DFC/USPS-T32-2.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
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**DFC/USPS-31.** Please identify all letter-mail automation equipment that can and does process mail that is more than 0.25 inches thick and all letter-mail automation equipment that cannot process mail that is more than 0.25 inches thick.

**RESPONSE:**

Letter-mail automation equipment that can process mail more than 0.25 inches thick without unacceptable jam and reject rates are the DBCS machines with expanded capabilities (EC). Letter-mail automation equipment that cannot process mail more than 0.25 inches thick without unacceptable jam and reject rates are the AFCS, CIOSS, CSBCS, DBCS, DIOSS, MLOCR, and MPBCS. See USPS-T-42, pages 3 – 11 for more information on letter mail automation equipment.

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**DFC/USPS-32.** Please provide the maximum thickness of mail that can be processed by all letter-mail automation equipment (e.g., MLOCR, DBCS, etc.) other than the AFCS.

**RESPONSE:**

The maximum thickness of mail that can be processed without unacceptable jam and reject rates by letter-mail automation equipment are:

- CIOSS, CSBCS, DBCS, DIOSS, MLOCR, and MPBCS - 0.25 inches.
- DBCS with expanded capabilities (EC) - 0.5 inch.

See USPS-T-42, pages 3 – 11 for more information on letter mail automation equipment.

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**DFC/USPS-33.** Please confirm that a two-ounce #10 envelope that is 0.3 inches thick that is entered as bulk metered mail and that bypasses the AFCS operation can be processed as readily and successfully on automation as a one-ounce #10 envelope that is less than 0.25 inches thick. If you do not confirm, please explain.

**RESPONSE:**

Not confirmed. See response to DFC/USPS-32. The 0.3 inch thick envelope exceeds the maximum thickness specification of most of the letter automation equipment and, therefore, cannot be as readily and successfully processed as the less than 0.25 inch thick envelope. Unless all subsequent processing steps for the 0.3 inch thick envelope take place on DBCS equipment with expanded capabilities, the envelope will be culled-out and routed to a manual operation.