

# DOCKET SECTION

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

RECEIVED  
Oct 1 4 15 PM '97

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Docket No. R97-1

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

## RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE (OCA/USPS-79-80)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides responses to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-79-80, filed on September 17, 1997.

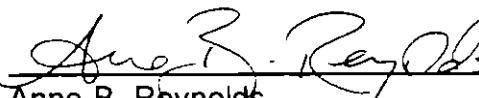
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

  
Anne B. Reynolds

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-2970; Fax -5402  
October 1, 1997

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-79. Please refer to the response to OCA/USPS-T3-1d. This response indicated that the third-class single piece volume increase for the CCS system was not reflected in the RPW system. Please explain why only the carrier cost systems were affected by this problem.

**Response:**

Please see page 63 of Library Reference H-13, Statistical Programs Guidelines, Special Classification Reform. The second bullet under the screen picture erroneously tells data collectors that "All mail endorsed 'Third-Class', 'Bulk Rate', or 'Blk. Rt.' not bearing a presort endorsement of any type should be recorded as *Standard A Single Piece* (emphasis provided)."

The mistake was found early in the implementation process of classification reform, and a correction was issued. However, the Statistical Programs Guidelines manual had already been distributed to data collection personnel. This erroneous instruction could have been instrumental in the increase in third-class single piece counts in the carrier cost systems.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-80. Please refer to the response to DFC/USPS-T5-2c. This states that one of the reasons that cost data were combined for private postcards and stamped cards was that "it was difficult for data collectors to distinguish between the two types of cards."

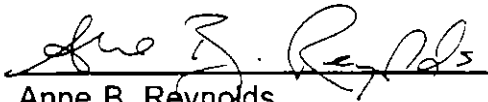
- a. Please describe any other categories of mail that data collectors have difficulty correctly identifying.
- b. For each category identified in part a of this interrogatory, please identify which data systems are affected.

RESPONSE:

- a. Data collectors have difficulty correctly identifying inadequately endorsed mailpieces.
- b. All data systems are affected to some extent by inadequate endorsements.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

  
Anne B. Reynolds

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
October 1, 1997