

DOCKET SECTION

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

Docket No. R97-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS LION TO INTERROGATORIES OF
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
(OCA/USPS-T24-94-95)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides responses of witness Lion to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T24-94-95, filed on September 23, 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



Kenneth N. Hollies

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October 6, 1997

OCA/USPS-T24-94. Please refer to your response to OCA/USPS-T24-71d, and Tables 5 and 6B.

- a. Please confirm that the "85,557 post office box possible deliveries located at contract stations" represents the number of post office boxes installed at contract stations. If you do not confirm, please explain.
- b. Please confirm that the DSF can identify the total number of post office boxes in contract stations by CAG. If you do not confirm, please explain. If you do confirm, please provide the total number of post office boxes in contract stations by CAG.
- c. Please confirm that all the "85,557 post office box possible deliveries located at contract stations" are from the "Non-city Carrier Delivery Group." If you do not confirm, please explain.
 - i. Please provide the total number of post office boxes in contract stations by Delivery Group.
 - ii. Please provide the total number of post office boxes in contract stations by Delivery Group by CAG.
- d. In Table 6B, please confirm that the total figure of 305,134 in column "E-2" can be calculated as follows: $0.06 * 0.90 * 5,650,638$, where 0.06 represents the percent of contract stations administered by Non-city Delivery Offices and 0.90 the percent of customers ineligible for carrier delivery service from Table 5, and 5,650,638 the total number of boxes in the Non-city Delivery Group from Table 4. If you do not confirm, please explain and provide the correct figures.
- e. In Table 6B, please confirm that for column "E-2," the total figure of 305,134 represents the total number of boxes in use at contract stations in Fee Group E from Fee Group D. If you do not confirm, please explain.
- f. Please reconcile the difference between the figure of 85,557 in part a. above and the figure of 305,134 in part e. above, and explain how the number of boxes in use at contract stations in Fee Group E can exceed the total number of post office boxes installed at all contract stations.

RESPONSE:

- a. Confirmed, according to the DSF.
- b. Not confirmed. The DSF does not contain information on CAG.
- c. Not confirmed. There are post office boxes at contract units in all delivery groups except Group City-A, as the table below shows.

[i]-[ii].

Post Office Boxes at Contract Units by Delivery Group & CAG						
Delivery Group						
CAG	City-A	City-B	City-Other	Non-city	Nondel.	Total
A		1	13,921		5	13,927
B			7,059			7,059
C			25,090			25,090
D			7,486			7,486
E			9,315	5,078	2,430	16,823
F			2,920	1,305	855	5,080
G			496	4,130	88	4,714
H			484	1,469	266	2,219
J				1,393	1	1,394
K				1,148	320	1,468
L				60	237	297
Total	0	1	66,771	14,583	4,202	

d. Confirmed.

e. Not confirmed. The "305,134" boxes are those in use at non-city delivery offices for which no fee is charged.

- f. The two numbers are from two different sources. The source of the "85,557" is the Delivery Statistics File. The "305,134" is an estimate derived from the response of witness Lyons to the Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 4, Question 6 in Docket No. MC96-3, supplemented by my estimate of the percentage of non-city boxes that are contract boxes (see my response to OCA/USPS-T24-15a). Note that the latter figure compares reasonably closely with "338,510", the number of contract boxes estimated from the POB Survey. See USPS LR-SSR-93. I cannot explain the discrepancy between the DSF and the other sources.

OCA/USPS-T24-95. Please refer to your response to OCA/USPS-T24-73b-c.

- a. In reference to part b. of your response, please provide
 - i. a date for the data source used to derive the number of contract stations by delivery group,
 - ii. the name of the SAS program used to produce the information in part b.,
 - iii. the electronic data input file, if not already provided as a library reference, and
 - iv. a description of all variables to the input files.
- b. Please confirm that the average number of post office boxes installed per contract station is approximately 21 (85,557 boxes installed / 4,132 contract stations). If you do not confirm, please explain.
- c. Please explain why the total number of contract stations of 4,132 in part b. of your response does not match the total of contract stations for any year in part c. of your response.
- d. [i] Please explain why you utilized the Address List Management System (ALMS) rather than the DSF to produce the number of contract stations by CAG. [ii] Please describe the ALMS, its use by the Postal Service, and the types of data available from it.

RESPONSE:

- a.
 - i. September 16, 1997.
 - ii. POBOX.SEPT97.CONTRACT.CNTI
 - iii. The electronic data input files, DSFSEP.DATA and ALMS.SEPT97.DATA, were provided in USPS LR-H-280.
 - iv. The input variables are:

ALMS : ZIP, FINANCE, and TYPECODE

DSF : ZIP, FINANCE, and GROUP.
- b. Confirmed, according to the Delivery Statistics File, assuming the question refers to contract units.

- c. The numbers are from two different sources. Some finance numbers with CAG designations in ALMS are not in the DSF. The difference between the two for 1997 is 0.2 percent.
- d. [i] The DSF does not contain information on the number of contract stations or on CAG. It also does not contain data on previous years. Using the ALMS, we were able provide the data requested for the past two years, in addition to the current year.

[ii] A description of ALMS (from the Internet, www.usps.gov) and file format are attached.



[Search](#) [Stamps](#) [Change of Addr.](#) [ZIP Codes](#)
[Rate Calculator](#) [Express Mail Tracking](#) [Home](#)

Address List Management System (ALMS)

The Address List Management System (ALMS) is an address list manager. The ALMS United States Postal Service (USPS) database and software offer easy access to mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and other useful information (FAX, delivery type, area, district) for all facilities and major positions of the USPS. All ALMS addresses are standardized and prebarcoded.

In addition to the USPS database, ALMS enables users to maintain personal files of correct and standardized addresses. ALMS has user-friendly search, print, import, and export functions, and a direct interface to the CD-ROM ZIP+4 Carrier Route Retrieval System, which is used throughout the USPS to standardize and ZIP+4 code addresses.

By following screen prompts, users can produce mailing labels and telephone lists quickly and effectively. ALMS can generate a variety of labels, barcoded envelopes, and telephone directories.

The ALMS file is divided into the following three user-friendly sections:

1. *USPS File* contains mailing addresses and phone numbers for every postal installation in the United States. Users can browse through the file, print a record, a mailing list, or a phone list.
2. *User File* creates a personal or local mailing list. Users can add, change, or delete addresses that are specific to their organization. Any address that is added must be matched with a ZIP+4 Code.
3. *Individual Address* section standardizes the ZIP+4 Code and prints an address that users do not want to save.

Customers who are in the mailing business and deal with the USPS every day cannot operate efficiently without ALMS.

For more information, please call the National Customer Support Center at 1-800-238-3150. Hours of operation are 7:00 AM through 7:00 PM CT.



[Return to the NCSC Product Information Menu](#)

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Developed by the USPS National Customer Support Center*

LBSHSMW.NCSCALMS

ALMS
file format

*BROWSE -- DDA.TESTCOPY(NCSCALMS) - 01.01 ----- LINE 00000000 COL 001 080
COMMAND ==>+ SCROLL ==>+PAGE

***** TOP OF DATA *****

01	ALMS-FACILITY-MASTER-REC.			00010000
05	ALMS-ORG-AREA-DIST.			00020001
	10 ALMS-ORG-TYPE	PIC X(01).	1	00021001
	10 ALMS-AREA-CODE	PIC X(01).	2	00022001
	10 ALMS-DISTRICT-CODE	PIC X(03).	3-5	00023001
05	ALMS-RECORD-KEY.			00024001
	10 ALMS-FINANCE-NO	PIC X(06).	6-11	00024101
	10 ALMS-KEY-SEQ-NO	PIC X(04).	12-15	00024201
05	ALMS-LAST-NAME	PIC X(20).	16-35	00025001
05	ALMS-FIRST-NAME	PIC X(15).	36-50	00026001
05	ALMS-MID-INITIAL	PIC X(01).	51	00027001
05	ALMS-TITLE-NAME	PIC X(30).	52-81	00028001
05	ALMS-FACILITY-NAME	PIC X(40).	82-121	00029001
05	ALMS-DELV-ADDRESS	PIC X(50).	122-171	00040001
05	ALMS-CITY-NAME	PIC X(28).	172-199	00050001
05	ALMS-STATE-ABBREV	PIC X(02).	200-201	00051001
05	ALMS-9DIGIT-ZIP.			00060000
	10 ALMS-5DIGIT-ZIP	PIC X(05).	202-206	00070000
	10 ALMS-ADDON-CODE	PIC X(04).	207-210	00080000
05	ALMS-COM-PHONE-NO.			00090001
	10 ALMS-COM-AREA-CODE	PIC X(03).	211-213	00091001

4A X
*BROWSE -- DDA.TESTCOPY(NCSCALMS) - 01.01 ----- LINE 00000022 COL 001 080
COMMAND ==>+ SCROLL ==>+PAGE

	10 ALMS-COM-PHONE	PIC X(07).	214-220	00092001
05	ALMS-FAX-PHONE	PIC X(07).	221-227	00100001
05	ALMS-CAG	PIC X(01).	228	00110001
05	ALMS-UNIT-TYPE-CODE	PIC X(01).	229	00120001
05	ALMS-CITY-DEL-FLAG	PIC X(01).	230	00130001
05	ALMS-SUSPND-OFC-FLAG	PIC X(01).	231	00140001
05	ALMS-PROJECT-CODE	PIC X(03).	232-234	00150001
05	ALMS-DROP-SHIP-ID	PIC X(10).	235-244	00160001
05	ALMS-RECORD-UPDATE-DATE.			00161001
	10 ALMS-REC-UPDATE-YEAR	PIC X(02).	245-246	00162001
	10 ALMS-REC-UPDATE-MONTH	PIC X(02).	247-248	00163001
	10 ALMS-REC-UPDATE-DAY	PIC X(02).	249-250	00164001
05	ALMS-UNUSED	PIC X(15).	251-265	00170001

***** BOTTOM OF DATA *****

DECLARATION

I, Paul M. Lion, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Paul M Lion

Dated: 10/6/97

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.

K N Hollies
Kenneth N. Hollies

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
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October 6, 1997