

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
TO INTERROGATORY OF
DAVID B. POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-68(R)-(T))

The United States Postal Service hereby provides a compelled response to the following interrogatory of David B. Popkin: DBP/USPS-68(r)-(t). The response to this interrogatory is consistent with P.O. Ruling No. R97-1/53, which provides that, "[t]he Postal Service is directed to answer 68(r)-(t) with respect to Special Handling stamps, explain if there are other uses for these stamps and indicate if mailers can receive refunds for these stamps." P.O. Ruling No. R97-1/53 at 8.

The pertinent subparts to this interrogatory are stated verbatim and are followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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November 10, 1997

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DBP/USPS-68

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[r] If there is a stamp which may only be used to pay the fee for a special service and that service is eliminated or reduced by the Postal Service, such as was done with Special Delivery in a recent PRC Docket, what happens to individuals who are holding those stamps? [s] May they be redeemed or exchanged for ordinary postage stamps? [t] May they be utilized for the payment of any postage or fee?

* * * * *

RESPONSE:

- r) This question is based on the mistaken premise that the Postal Service proposal for special handling will somehow "reduce" that service. To the contrary, special handling service will not be "reduced." Thus, assuming adoption of the Postal Service's proposal for special handling, special handling stamps may continue to be used to pay special handling fees, both before and after the implementation of the proposed fees.
- s) Special handling stamps may be used to pay special handling fees, but may not be used to pay postage under DMM P022.2.2(a). Unused special handling stamps may be exchanged if they are "damaged, defective, or otherwise unserviceable" under DMM P014.1.1; refunds are not offered for stamps.
- t) Special handling stamps may be used to pay special handling fees, but may not be used to pay postage under DMM P022.2.2(a).

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.


Anthony F. Alverno

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