

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 DAVID B. POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-462-466, 468-471, 474)
(August 21, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its institutional responses to the above-listed interrogatories of David B. Popkin, filed on August 7, 2006.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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August 21, 2006

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN

DBP/USPS-462 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-121 subparts b and c. Please advise whether a mailer of Delivery Confirmation, Signature Confirmation, and/or Collect of Delivery Mail may track the mailpiece on the Internet or by telephone. If necessary, please correct the responses to the other subparts of the original Interrogatory.

RESPONSE:

No changes are needed to the response to DBP/USPS-121, since that response identified those accountable mail services which are trackable on the Internet or by telephone.

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DBP/USPS-463 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-121 subpart g. You indicate that to provide tracking of insured items without Delivery Confirmations, it would be necessary to raise the price for all Insurance mailpieces.

[a] Please advise the estimated increase in price that would be necessary.

[b] Please show the calculations and data that were utilized to obtain your response to subpart a above.

[c] Please advise the amount that was added to the fees for other services that have the capability of Internet and/or telephone tracking.

RESPONSE:

a. The estimated increase in the price of the insurance if the information were provided would be at least \$0.18.

b. Using the cost for making the final disposition of Delivery Confirmation scans available as a proxy, the minimum postal cost increase for providing this information would be at least \$0.12. With 150 percent cost coverage, the price increase would be \$0.18. As noted in witness Mitchum's response to DFC/USPS-T40-3, only 17 percent of insured items also have Delivery Confirmation, so the Postal Service chose not to burden the majority of insurance mailers with this additional expense. As such, no effort was made to determine if any other additional costs related to providing this information would be incurred.

c. Special service fees are proposed based on the overall costs and the other factors discussed by witnesses Berkeley, Kaneer, and Mitchum. Since there were no changes in the availability of Internet and/or telephone tracking, in this proceeding, no fee was increased specifically for the capability of Internet and/or telephone tracking. However, in Docket No. R2000-1, the fees for Certified Mail and Registered Mail were increased in part because of the newly included feature of access to delivery information.

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DBP/USPS-464 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-121 subpart g. You indicate that the vast majority of mailers of Insured mailpieces are not interested in receiving the tracking information because they have chosen not to purchase Delivery Confirmation in addition to the Insurance.

[a] Please indicate the present cost of adding Delivery Confirmation to an Insured mailpiece.

[b] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that many mailers of Insured mailpieces may choose not to purchase Delivery Confirmation either because of its cost or lack of knowledge of its availability or need.

RESPONSE:

a. This would be dependent on the item mailed, and varies from \$0.00 to \$0.60.

b. Not confirmed. The Postal Service has not conducted research about why customers choose not to purchase Delivery Confirmation for items they insure.

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DBP/USPS-465 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-122 subpart c.

[a] May Delivery Confirmation mailpieces [and Collect of Delivery mailpieces if the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-462 indicates that they may be tracked] be scanned at the time of acceptance if the customer requests it?

[b] Are all of these accountable mailpieces automatically scanned at the time of acceptance if the postage has not already been applied by the mailer?

[c] If not, please explain.

RESPONSE:

a. Yes they may, but there is no requirement for the clerk to do so.

b-c. No, not all locations have the ability to scan packages.

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DBP/USPS-466 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-122 subpart c.

[a] Should Delivery Confirmation mailpieces [and Collect of Delivery mailpieces if the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-462 indicates that they may be tracked] also be indicated in the last 4-1/2 lines of the response to subpart c?

[b] If not, please explain.

RESPONSE:

a. No.

b. Delivery Confirmation is not an accountable service.

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DBP/USPS-468 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-124.

[a] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that PS Form 3813 as shown on attachment 1 will be utilized at a retail window.

[b] Please identify the source of the top two receipts shown on Attachment 2.

[c] Please identify the source of the bottom two receipts shown on Attachment 2.

RESPONSE:

a. Confirmed.

b-c. These are receipts generated by POS.

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DBP/USPS-469 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-124. Your response did not show the labels and barcodes that would be affixed to the mailpiece for methods of mailing other than over the retail window. Please provide.

RESPONSE:

Please refer to section 503.4 (exhibits: 4.3.5b and 4.3.5c) of the Domestic Mail Manual.

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DBP/USPS-470 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-124 subpart a. Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that for entry by other than by an APC or over a retail window, the mailpiece must be prepared online.

RESPONSE:

Not confirmed. See Domestic Mail Manual, section 503.4.3.1, entitled "Where to Mail."

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DBP/USPS-471 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-124 subpart e. Your response did not discuss or provide copies of the forms utilized for the methods by which Insured mailpieces will be accounted for when given to the delivery carriers at a given post office.

RESPONSE:

Please see the attached form.

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DBP/USPS-474 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-124 subpart e. Your response indicated that parcels insured for \$50 or less [namely, unnumbered packages] will be delivered it can be left at a secure location.

[a] Will this now apply to parcels insured for \$200 or less?

[b] If not, why not?

RESPONSE:

a. Yes.

b. Not applicable.