

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

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-11 and 12)**

The United States Postal Service hereby files its responses to the following interrogatories of Douglas Carlson, dated October 20, 1997: DFC/USPS-11 and 12.

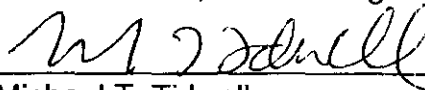
The interrogatories are stated verbatim and are followed by the responses.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Michael T. Tidwell

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November 20, 1997

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-11

Is the aspect ratio of a rectangular post card relevant to determining whether the card can be processed by automated equipment? If so, why does the nonstandard surcharge that applies to one-ounce nonstandard letters not apply to cards whose aspect ratio is not conducive to automated processing.

RESPONSE:

The nonstandard surcharge does not apply to cards claimed at the card rate. To qualify for the card rate, a card must meet the dimensional requirements in Domestic Mail Manual section C.100.2.1 which, generally, are consistent with those associated with a standard letter.

A card which violates these postcard dimensions does not qualify for the card rate and would have to pay the higher letter rate.

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-12

Please confirm that the Postal Service, at some time in the past four years, mailed to all or many residential customers nationwide a flyer or document that provided the recipients with information on how to address their mail properly and in a manner that would enhance the automation compatibility of their mail. Please provide this document and the dates when it was mailed.

RESPONSE:

Over the last few years, various local Area and District offices have sent (to residential and business addresses in selected ZIP Codes) mail pieces which generally explain how the Postal Service depends upon complete and correct addresses for its automation programs to work correctly. These mail pieces informed customers about why the Postal Service needs automation to handle its daily volumes. The pieces also explained the importance of each component in a delivery address and encouraged that the recipients provide their correspondents with the automation-compatible address on the mail piece they received. The pieces were sent to addresses in ZIP Codes where local managers believed that local addressing conventions or customer practices would benefit from a direct communication to the postal customer about the benefits of using a complete and correct address. There was no nationwide mailing. If a sample mail piece can be located, it will be provided.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Tidwell", written over a horizontal line.

Michael T. Tidwell

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