

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS COOMBS
TO INTERROGATORIES OF ADVO (ADVO/USPS-T42-8 – 9, 14, 16, 18 - 20),
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS McCRERY
(July 26, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness Coombs to the following interrogatories of Advo, filed on July 12, 2006: Advo/USPS-T42-8 – 9, 14, 16, 18 – 20, redirected from witness McCrery (USPS-T-42).

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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July 26, 2006

**RESPONSE OF POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS COOMBS TO
INTERROGATORIES OF ADVO,
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS MCCRERY (USPS-T-42)**

ADVO/USPS-T42-8.

For the following types of mailer-prepared saturation/high-density flat mail containers dropped at the delivery unit dock, please identify the steps the clerk/mailhandlers at that delivery unit will perform on the mail, up to the point where it is placed so that the carriers can access it.

RESPONSE:

The process for handling the below named items varies somewhat across operational units depending on the unit space and configuration. In my experience, the bundles and sacks that are listed are handled as follows:

- a. Pallets with CR bundles are originally handled in the dock or staging area. If the pallet is shrink-wrapped, the wrap is removed. The bundles are then handled according to the rolling stock that is available. Some units use nutting trucks and others have modified equipment known as "battleships" which are similar to, but larger than, nutting trucks. The bundles are stacked on a pre-configured route location area of the nutting truck, or they are placed in flat tubs on the truck that are also pre-marked with the route numbers. Once the truck is full, the bundles are taken to the carrier's hamper to go directly to the street if possible. If the bundles require additional sorting, they are placed at the carrier's case for casing. Additionally, in a limited number of offices, a small fork lift is used to take the pallet directly to the carrier's hamper area and the bundles are distributed directly into the carrier's parcel hamper.
- b. Pallets with CR sacks are originally handled in the dock or staging area. If the pallet is shrink-wrapped, the wrap is removed. The sacks are then

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- handled according to the rolling stock that is available. Some units use nutting trucks and others have modified equipment known as “battleships” which are similar to, but larger than, nutting trucks. The sacks are stacked on the truck in route order. Once the truck is full, the sacks are taken to the carrier’s parcel hamper to go directly to the street if possible. The sacks are generally dumped by the clerk/mail handler. If the sacks contain product that requires additional sorting, they are placed at the carrier’s case for casing.
- c. CR sacks are originally handled in the dock or staging area. The sacks are handled according to the rolling stock that is available. Some units use nutting trucks and others have modified equipment known as “battleships” which are similar to, but larger than, nutting trucks. The sacks are stacked on the truck in route order. Once the truck is full, the sacks are taken to the carrier’s parcel hamper to go directly to the street if possible. The sacks are generally dumped by the clerk/mail handler. If the sacks contain product that requires additional sorting, they are placed at the carrier’s case for casing.
- d. Rolling containers with CR bundles are handled according to whether the bundles contained are in some semblance of sequence order. If they are received in an APC and are in mixed sequence order, they are handled similarly to pallet-loaded CR bundles. Some units use nutting trucks and others have modified equipment known as “battleships” which are similar

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- to, but larger than, nutting trucks. The bundles are stacked on a pre-configured route location area of the nutting truck, or they are placed in flat tubs on the truck that are also pre-marked with the route numbers. Once the truck is full, the bundles are taken to the carrier's hamper to go directly to the street if possible. If the bundles require additional sorting, they are placed at the carrier's case for casing. If they are received in an APC or other rolling container and are in some semblance of sequence order, they may be taken directly to the carrier's hamper or case.
- e. Rolling containers with CR sacks are handled according to whether the sacks contained are in some semblance of sequence order. If they are received in an APC and are in mixed sequence order, they are handled similarly to pallet-loaded CR sacks. Some units use nutting trucks and others have modified equipment known as "battleships" which are similar to, but larger than, nutting trucks. The sacks are stacked on a pre-configured route location area of the nutting truck, or they are placed in flat tubs on the truck that are also pre-marked with the route numbers. Once the truck is full, the sacks are taken to the carrier's hamper to go directly to the street if possible. If the sacks contain material that requires additional sorting, they are placed at the carrier's case for casing. If they are received in an APC or other rolling container and are in some semblance of sequence order, they may be taken directly to the carrier's hamper or case.

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ADVO/USPS-T42-9.

Please explain what happens to pallets, sacks, and rolling containers that are emptied at the delivery unit. Who picks them up and where are they sent?

RESPONSE:

They are returned to the mail processing facility on the next available transportation provided.

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ADVO/USPS-T42-14.

With respect to ECR/NECR saturation letters that were dropped at the DDU:

- (a) Were the mailer-prepared bundles and containers generally opened first at the DDU or at the DSCF? (b) If the mailer-prepared containers were opened first at the DDU, were those containers resealed and shipped back to the processing center? If not, how were they containerized for the shipment back?

RESPONSE:

a - b) Delivery unit personnel should first open a container (e.g., tray) or bundle of letters within the ECR/NECR mailing in order to determine whether the pieces can successfully be sequenced on automation, assuming the mailing is for an automated incoming secondary (DPS) zone. If the mailing appears to be automation compatible, it should be shipped to the plant for processing in either the mailer-prepared container or by loading the trays onto rolling stock. If the pieces do not appear to be fully automation compatible, the mailing will be retained and opened at the delivery unit.

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ADVO/USPS-T42-16.

Please identify the types of automated processing equipment that may be found at Post Offices, Stations and Branches.

RESPONSE:

Post Offices, Stations, and/or Branches might have CSBCSs or DBCSs. If they are located in the same facility as a mail processing unit, they could also have AFSM 100s or UFSM 1000s.

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ADVO/USPS-T42-18.

Please confirm that saturation flat mailers that drop their mail at DDUs often, if not always, unload their trucks and place the mail in a postal-designated location.

RESPONSE:

It is confirmed that at the majority of DDUs, flat mailers place their mail in a postal-designated location.

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ADVO/USPS-T42-19.

Please identify the proportion of post offices, stations, and branches that cannot accommodate pallet handling.

RESPONSE:

I have been informed that 66 percent of post offices, stations, branches, delivery distribution centers, and carrier annexes cannot accommodate pallet handling.

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ADVO/USPS-T42-20.

Please confirm that for post offices, stations, and branches that cannot accommodate pallet handling, saturation flat mailers that drop ship at such locations generally prepare bundles or sacks in rolling stock containers.

RESPONSE:

They are generally prepared in bundles or sacks in rolling containers.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document in accordance with Section 12 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

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