

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-272-275)
(July 27, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its institutional responses to the above-listed interrogatories, filed on July 13, 2006.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID POPKIN**

DBP/USPS-272 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-114. [a] Please explain the types of mail and the conditions under which the 4-state barcode will be affixed to the mailpiece. [b] Please discuss any plans for the expansion of the use of 4-state barcodes by the Postal Service.

RESPONSE:

(a) The 4-State Customer Barcode can be affixed to both letters and flats.

The barcode can be affixed by mailers/customers. Placement configurations are outlined in the Resource Guide at <http://ribbs.usps.gov/onecodesolution/>.

(b) Upon its launch in September, the 4-State Customer Barcode will be used by OneCodeConfirm and OneCodeACS subscribers. The USPS is currently evaluating the strategic direction and future usage requirements for this barcode.

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DBP/USPS-273 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-114 subpart f.[a] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the Postal Service does not utilize the 4-state barcode to sort or route [in a manner similar to the sorting that is accomplished with the POSTNET barcode] the mailpieces to which the codes have been affixed. [b] Please explain how the Postal Service expects to improve mail service by analyzing the information contained in the 4-state barcode.

RESPONSE:

- (a) The 4-State Customer Barcode may be used in lieu of POSTNET to sort or route mail when it also carries tracking information for Confirm or ACS services. At its initial launch in September, the Postal Service does not intend to replace POSTNET with the 4-State Customer Barcode when the only function desired is to sort mailpieces.
- (b) The 4-State Customer Barcode provides visibility into the mailstream. With visibility both mailers and the Postal Service can use this information to improve mail service.

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DBP/USPS-274 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-114. [a] Please explain how it is possible when manually decoding a 4-state barcode to determine which bar represents the first or starting bar and which bar represents the last or ending bar, i.e. how does one orient the bar code to properly decode it. [b] Please list the total number of bars that appear in each of the types of a properly applied 4-state barcode. [c] Under what conditions will fewer bars exist in a barcode affixed to a mailpiece. [d] How does one manually decode a barcode that has fewer bars than noted in the response to subpart b.

RESPONSE:

- (a) The 4-State Customer Barcode encoding and decoding algorithm takes care of orientation. There is no way to determine orientation (first and last bars) just by looking at the barcode. Although this barcode does not have framing bars it has a condition within the encoding routine that remains constant to allow decoding algorithms to determine orientation of the barcode.
- (b) The 4-State Customer Barcode is comprised of exactly 65 bars. There is no rule as to the number of descender, ascender, tracker, and full bars.
- (c) The 4-State Customer Barcode is comprised of exactly 65 bars. If there are fewer or more than 65 bars within a barcode, this is an indication of an invalid 4-State Customer Barcode.
- (d) A valid 4-State Customer Barcode must have 65 bars. If a customer uses only a 5 digit ZIP Code within the barcode, the 4-State Customer Barcode will still consist of 65 bars.

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DBP/USPS-275 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-114 subpart h. Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that there is no planned reduction in the use of POSTNET barcodes or the ID Tag [orange RBCS markings]

RESPONSE:

The USPS equipment will still place POSTNET and ID tags (orange RBCS markings) on mailpieces that are not pre-barcoded with ZIP code information by the customer. Customers will use the 4-State Customer Barcode or the POSTNET for the applicable postal service or discount defined by the service.