

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2006]

DOCKET NO. R2006-1

FOLLOW-UP INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN TO THE UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE [DBP/USPS-599-639]

David B. Popkin hereby requests the United States Postal Service to answer, fully and completely, the following interrogatories pursuant to Rules 25 and 26 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. To reduce the volume of paper, I have combined related requests into a single numbered interrogatory; however, I am requesting that a specific response be made to each separate question asked. To the extent that a reference is made in the responses to a Library Reference, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the reference since I am located at a distance from Washington, DC. Any reference to testimony should indicate the page and line numbers. The instructions contained in the interrogatories DFC/USPS-1-18 in Docket C2001-1, dated May 19, 2001, are incorporated herein by reference. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 25[b], I am available for informal discussion to respond to your request to "clarify questions and to identify portions of discovery requests considered overbroad or burdensome."

September 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

R20061DDD599

DAVID B. POPKIN, POST OFFICE BOX 528, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631-0528

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DBP/USPS-599

Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-519.

[a] Since there are differences in the two charts for similar information, please explain how both of the charts can still contain correct information. At best, they may have contained correct information when they were filed on July 20, 2006, and August 7, 2006, but how can they both be correct information as of your response to DBP/USPS-519 on August 28, 2006?

[b] Please advise the correct information as of the date of your response to this Interrogatory.

[c] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that there was no information available for the percentage of on-time mail for each of the different types of mailpieces between the data that was provided in the R2005-1 Docket and July 20, 2006, when that data was confirmed as being up-to-date.

[d] Please advise when the Code G mailpiece was eliminated from the program.

[e] Please advise when the changes to the various dimensions were changed.

DBP/USPS-600 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-528. Your response does not appear to respond to my original Interrogatory DBP/USPS-289 subpart a, which inquired as to whether the results of the PTS would be affected if a collection or pick-up was not made as scheduled. This was clarified in DBP/USPS-528 and not responded to.

DBP/USPS-601 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-530. I realize that the carrier will provide a scan when the piece is delivered. What I am referring to is when it appears that all mailpieces requiring a scan are scanned "in bulk" with an arrival at unit scan or other in transit scan as the mailpieces are being processed prior to being given to the delivery carrier for ultimate delivery to the addressee.

DBP/USPS-602 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-498. Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the mailpiece described in the original Interrogatory would likely be processed in such a manner that it would be processed in an automated system such that any individual letter will not be observed by human eyes specifically observing that individual letter until the delivery carrier was approaching the delivery point.

DBP/USPS-603 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-506. Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that absent any mailer input, the clerk would only affix 9¢ in postage.

DBP/USPS-604 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e. Please explain why you believe that the wording of the proposed DMCS changes preclude the use of the Forever Stamp to pay the postage for the first ounce of a

First-Class Mail Single Piece letter that weighed over one ounce and up to 3.5 ounces [the maximum weight for a letter].

DBP/USPS-605                    Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e. Your response stated, "The Postal Service is considering giving postage credit for such uses at the original purchase price, but a final determination has not yet been made."

[a]     Please advise what criteria will be considered in making this determination.

[b]     What is the current status of this determination?

[c]     When will the final determination become disclosed to the participants in this Docket?

DBP/USPS-606                    Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is that the only use that a mailer may make of the Forever Stamp is to fully pay the postage on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics [which would require payment at the rate for a flat].

DBP/USPS-607                    Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is that if a mailer has utilized a Forever Stamp to fully pay the postage on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics [which would require payment at the rate for a flat], the mailer may utilize ancillary services [such as, Certified Mail or Registered Mail] for that one ounce letter provided the postage for the ancillary service was paid for with a means other than one or more Forever Stamps.

DBP/USPS-608                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to a post card that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-609                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing over one ounce that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-610                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to a First-Class Mail Single

Piece letter which has one or more of the nonmachinable characteristics that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-611                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to a First-Class Mail Single Piece flat that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-612                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to a First-Class Mail Single Piece parcel that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner

as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-613                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to mailpiece including a one ounce letter destined to an international destination that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-614                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to a mailpiece other than a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter [such as, a parcel being sent by one of the package services] that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may

receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-615                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is if a mailer affixes a Forever Stamp to mailpiece including a one ounce letter for which either Priority Mail or Express Mail service is desired that the stamp will have no postage value since it was not being utilized on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics. Furthermore, the mailpiece will be treated in the same manner as if it did not have any postage affixed or was shortpaid if there was any other non-Forever Stamp postage affixed which did not cover the full postage requirement. In addition, the Forever Stamp may receive a cancellation marking due to the processing of the mailpiece which would preclude its further use.

DBP/USPS-616                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Since the Postal Service has indicated what their interpretation of the proposed DMCS wording is, please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that if the Postal Service were to arrive at a conclusion that it would give postage credit for other unintended purposes for the Forever Stamp, it would require changing the wording of the DMCS.

DBP/USPS-617                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please explain how observation of the use of the Forever Stamp during the period starting at the imposition of the 42¢ First-Class Mail letter rate [assuming that it is approved] and ending at the time that the next increase is filed for [since I assume that any changes or updating of the Forever Stamp would have to be filed contemporaneously with the request for an increase

in the First-Class Mail letter rate] would provide any useful information to evaluate and determine the policy for unintended postage uses.

DBP/USPS-618                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510, if that ultimately becomes the implemented policy as a result of this Docket and then sometime after that implementation, probably on the order of several years later, that there would be confusion caused by the change in Forever Stamp policies.

DBP/USPS-619                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subpart c.

[a]     Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the first sentence of the proposed DMCS Section 241 states what postage may be paid by the Forever Stamp.

[b]     Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the last sentence of the proposed DMCS Section 241 states what use may be made of the Forever Stamp.

[c]     Please explain how you believe that even though the proposed DMCS states what use may be made of the Forever Stamp any other use can also be made of them so long as the DMCS does not specifically prohibit that use.

[d]     Does that same method of interpreting other Postal Service policies and regulations apply in a similar manner, namely, if the regulation states what can be done, anything else is also permitted unless it specifically also prohibits that use or activity.

[e]     If not, why not?

DBP/USPS-620                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 subparts b through e.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that if the proposed DMCS wording is adopted as proposed, the Postal Service could adopt the ultimate DMM regulations that prohibited any unintended postage use regardless of any informal agreements or Interrogatory responses.

DBP/USPS-621                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-516.

[a] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that all of the non-denominated un-lettered transition stamps were ultimately issued in the same design but with a numerical denomination shown.

[b] Please respond to the original Interrogatory if one assumes that the Postal Service could have utilized a letter on the transition stamp in place of the number that ultimately appeared on the final denominated version of the same design.

DBP/USPS-622 Please refer to your responses to Interrogatories DBP/USPS-547 subpart g, DBP/USPS-548 subpart k, and DBP/USPS-549 subpart i.

[a] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the Postal Service is not intending to develop a policy for unintended postage use and applications for the Forever Stamp prior to the completion of the litigation on Docket R2006-1.

[b] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the Postal Service is expecting the Commission to approve the Forever Stamp under the Postal Service's current position on the Forever Stamp as of August 28, 2006, the date of filing the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-510 is that the only use that a mailer may make of the Forever Stamp is to fully pay the postage on a First-Class Mail Single Piece letter weighing one ounce or less which is destined to places where the United States Postal Service operates and which does not have any of the nonmachinable characteristics [which would require payment at the rate for a flat].

[c] Please explain why the Postal Service submitted this proposal to the Commission without being fully explored and evaluated.

DBP/USPS-623 Please refer to your responses to Interrogatories DBP/USPS-546 and DBP/USPS-552.

Please prepare and submit a revised and corrected Library Reference.

DBP/USPS-624 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-537.

[a] Please advise the date of the current version of Notice 3-A.

[b] Please provide the specific wording that appears on the Notice 3-A that serves to provide additional guidelines to postal acceptance clerks as opposed to reformatting the DMM regulations to place them in a more convenient format.

DBP/USPS-625 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-540.

I am still attempting to determine the rationale for assessing the mailer of a standard 6- by 9-inch kraft envelope with a metal clasp with the nonmachinable surcharge if the mailpiece weighs less than one ounce. For purposes of this response assume that there are no other characteristics of the mailpiece which would trigger the surcharge. Assume that it is a plain envelope with two sheets of 8-1/2 by 11-inch paper neatly folded in half and inserted in the envelope, the envelope does not have a plastic bag enclosure, and has the address parallel to the longer dimension of the envelope.

Is the rationale for the application of the surcharge based on:

- [a] the unevenness of the mailpiece caused by the thickness of the physical clasp? The metal clasp does have a thickness that makes that part of the envelope slightly thicker than the rest of the envelope.
- [b] the ability of the clasp to catch on something else during processing?
- [c] the rigidity of the mailpiece caused by the metal clasp? The metal clasp is metal and conceivably could pose a problem by making the mailpiece too rigid.
- [d] If there is any other specific physical condition for the application of the surcharge, please specify.

DBP/USPS-626                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-541 subpart f.

Please explain why you are unable to confirm that a direct measurement made by holding a ruler up against the dimension being measured will not be more accurate than an indirect measurement made by sighting along the mailpiece and ruler [including the fact that the dimension being evaluated is 0.25 and 0.75 inches only [See DBP/USPS-542] and compressibility [See DBP/USPS-543]]

DBP/USPS-627                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-542 subpart b. Please advise how a retail window clerk will be able to utilize Notice 3-A to determine the 0.75 inch dimension.

DBP/USPS-628                      Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-542 subpart c. Please advise how a mailer will be able to utilize the DMM to determine the thickness of a mailpiece.

DBP/USPS-629 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-544.

[a] Please advise the types of "available tools" that will be available to virtually all, if not all, of the retail window clerks to allow them to measure the mailpiece.

[b] If these tools will not be available to all retail window clerks, please explain.

DBP/USPS-630 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-556.

[a] Please advise the significance of the response now that the software has been changed.

[b] Does that mean that the data is available for all 80-some Districts?

[c] If so, please provide data for a representative period.

DBP/USPS-631 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-557 subpart a.

[a] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the retail associate must enter the length for all parcels which meet the weight limits shown on lines 1 and 2 of your response.

[b] What is the cut-off value for the length of a parcel that will also require the width and height to be entered and show how the calculation was determined?

DBP/USPS-632 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-559.

Please advise the system that will be implemented to implement the dim-weight program as far as what types of parcels will require what types of entries and how those numbers were arrived at.

DBP/USPS-633 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-471 revised on August 30, 2006.

Please advise why no record and internal accounting is made for charging insured parcels to the delivering employees in a similar manner as done on PS Form 3867 with other types of accountable mail.

DBP/USPS-634 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-562.

Please respond to the original Interrogatory with the obviously typographical errors corrected as follows:

Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-454.

[a] Please define the words "logistically feasible" as used in your response.

[b] Please advise the specific conditions that would make the scenario described in subpart a of Interrogatory DBP/USPS-454 not "logistically feasible."

DBP/USPS-635 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-562.

[a] In the past, have the Board of Governors ever implemented an Opinion and Recommended Decision in a staggered manner?

[b] If so, please provide details.

[c] If so, please respond to the original subpart c of Interrogatory DBP/USPS-562.

DBP/USPS-636 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-567.

Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that in general when postage stamps are issued, they are issued for a specific value and will always have that value even though they may require additional postage to accomplish the same function. For example, during the period from June 30, 2002, to January 7, 2006, the Postal Service sold a 37¢ stamp which would serve the purpose of a one-ounce Single Piece First-Class Mail letter and from January 8, 2006, on if one wanted to use a 37¢ stamp on a similar mailpiece, it would be necessary to affix an additional 2¢ in postage.

DBP/USPS-637 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-418.

[a] Your response did not refer to the status of letters that weigh between one ounce and 3.5 ounces. For example, will a 1.6 ounce mailpiece that meets the definition of a letter but has a one or more characteristics that would subject it today to a 13¢ nonmachinable surcharge [if such a surcharge were to be applicable to over one ounce letters] pay the rate under the proposed regulations for a 2-ounce letter of 62¢ or a 2-ounce flat of 82¢? Examples of such a mailpiece would be a birthday card measuring 6-by 6-inches or a 6- by 9-inch envelope sealed with a metal clasp [the weight would be 1.6 ounces and the thickness would be less than 0.25 inches in either case].

[b] If the requirement to use the postage rates for flats on letters that have one or more nonmachinable characteristics applies to letters weighing one ounce or less, please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the postage for both a one ounce and a two ounce letter with one or more nonmachinable characteristics will be the same.

DBP/USPS-638 Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DFC/USPS-T48-22.

Please advise the date that the six page paper that was attached to the response was prepared.

DBP/USPS-639                      Please refer to the attachment to your response to Interrogatory DFC/USPS-T48-22.

This attachment raises a number of questions and presents a number of statements on how the Forever Stamp will be considered and implemented. Have all of these questions and statements been incorporated into the proposal as presented in Testimony T-48 and the subsequent discovery that has been conducted or must each of these questions and statements be litigated based on this attachment?

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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.

David B. Popkin      September 5, 2006

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