

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes,
2006

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Docket No. R2006-1

SEVENTH SET OF INTERROGATORIES OF
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC.,
AND ALLIANCE OF NONPROFIT MAILERS
TO USPS WITNESS TANG
(MPA/USPS-T35-17)
(July 17, 2006)

Pursuant to sections 25, 26 and 27 of the rules of practice, Magazine Publishers of America, Inc., and Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers direct the following interrogatories to United States Postal Service witness Rachel Tang (USPS-T-35). If the witness cannot answer a question or subpart, we request that the Postal Service answer through another witness or submit an institutional response.

Respectfully submitted,

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QUESTIONS

MPA/USPS-T35-17. This question is a follow-up to your July 14 response to MPA/USPS-T35-13, where you calculate the percentage increase in the incentive for twelve publications to co-palletize under your rate proposals. The January 12, 2006, issue of the Federal Register contains a USPS notice entitled “Sack Preparation Changes for Periodicals Mail.” The notice states in part:

SUMMARY: This final rule adopts new mailing standards for Periodicals mail prepared in sacks. The standards include two new types of sacks—a 3-digit carrier routes sack and a merged 3-digit sack—and a new minimum of 24 pieces for most other sacks.

DATES: *Effective Date:* May 11, 2006.

(a) Please confirm that you performed the analysis described in your response to MPA/USPS-T35-13 before May 11, 2006. If not confirmed, please explain fully.

(b) Please confirm that you based your analysis on mailings that were entered before implementation of the rule entitled “Sack Preparation Changes for Periodicals Mail.” If not confirmed, please explain fully.

(c) Please confirm, holding all else equal, that, under your proposal, the per-piece incentive to co-palletize publications in small sacks (measured in number of pieces) is larger than the per-piece incentive to co-palletize publications in large sacks (measured in number of pieces).

(d) Please confirm that the “Sack Preparation Changes for Periodicals Mail” will increase the average size (measured in number of pieces) of Periodicals sacks.

(e) For each of the publications you analyzed, please provide the average number of pieces per sack (if mailed as a solo mailing) based on the Postage Statement data used in your analysis. Please provide the information in the format specified in the table below.

Percentage Increase in Incentive to Co-Palletize	Average Pieces Per Sack (Solo Mailing)
2	
5	
34	
35	
35	
39	
40	
40	
47	
48	
54	
56	

(f) Please provide your best estimate of the percentage increase in the incentive to co-palletize for each of the twelve publications, based on the assumption that each publication's sacks contain the same number of pieces as an average Test Year sack of Periodicals Outside County mail.

(g) Please provide your best estimate of the percentage increase in the incentive to co-palletize for each of the twelve publications using Postage Statement information for a mailing that was prepared according the recently-implemented "Sack Preparation Changes for Periodicals Mail" rule.

(h) Please provide sufficient information from PS Forms 3541 and 3541-X for each of the 12 publications analyzed to allow replication of the results provided in your response to MPA/USPS-T35-13. You may replace the name and other identifying information about the publisher and publication with code names or letters (e.g., "Publication A") to the extent necessary to conceal the identity of the mailer and publication.

(i) Please provide sufficient information from PS Forms 3541 and 3541-X for each of the 12 publications analyzed to allow replication of the results you provide in response to subparts (f) and (g) of this interrogatory. You may replace the name and

other identifying information about the publisher and publication with code names or letters (e.g., "Publication A") to the extent necessary to conceal the identity of the mailer and publication.

(j) Please confirm that you have not calculated the percentage change in the "incentive to co-mail" under your proposal for any publications. If not confirmed, please explain and provide your calculations.