

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSE OF POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS BERKELEY
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-T39-52)

The United States Postal Service hereby files the response of witness Berkeley (USPS-T-39) to the above-listed interrogatory, filed on July 14, 2006. The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS BERKELEY TO
INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON (DFC/USPS-T39-52)**

DFC/USPS-T39-52. Please describe the process by which a signature is transferred and transformed from a Form 3849 to an electronic delivery record in a Postal Service database. In your description, please include the time involved for each step to occur and the time that elapses between each step, and please describe whether these steps and the time that elapses between each step would be expected to differ depending on whether the service purchased was electronic return receipt or signature confirmation.

RESPONSE:

Postal Service delivery employees identify all mailpieces that require delivery status scanning prior to, or at the point of, delivery. When the "Delivered" event is appended to any article requiring signature capture, the POS One and Mobile Data Collection Devices (MDCD) prompt the delivery employee to scan the PS Form 3849. During this scanning process, the article's Package Identification Code and the PS Form 3849 Barcode ID are associated in the electronic record created in the device(s).

For POS One devices, the electronic delivery records are uploaded to the Product Tracking System during the evening after office close out. For MDCDs, upon return to the office and cradling the device, delivery status records are uploaded within 15 minutes for large configuration systems and within 24 hours for small configuration systems.

Further, upon return to the office or POS One close out, delivery employees turn in completed PS Forms 3849 and 3811 to the accountable cage or clearance employee. All completed PS Forms 3849 are routed to the Computerized Forwarding System (CFS) site for optical scanning. Completed

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(hardcopy) PS Forms 3811 are sent to mail processing via the next available dispatch.

All processes mentioned above are expected to take place on the same day. However, those PS Forms 3849 returned after the dispatch of value are expected to be routed to the CFS site serving the delivery unit on the next available transportation.

Once PS Forms 3849 are received at the servicing CFS site, it is expected that optical scanning of the Forms will take place within 24 hours. The optical scanner creates an electronic image of the recipient's signature, name, and address and transmits it to the Product Tracking System. Once the image file is received by the Product Tracking System, the association created at the time of delivery is used to link the signature image file to the signature article(s) associated with the PS Form 3849 barcode ID. It is expected that association and linking of the signature image to the mailpiece delivery record will take place within 24 hours.

The Postal Service expects signature images to be available to its signature customers between 2 to 4 days after delivery. There are no differences between the signature capture processes for electronic return receipt or Signature Confirmation; thus, this expectation would apply to both services.