

Request

Docket OST-96-1639

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OPERATIONS



December 19, 2000

Mr. Randall Bennett
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis X-50
400 7th Street SW, Room 6401
Washington, DC 20590-0003

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This letter is regarding the most recent Order to Show Cause Establishing International Service Mail Rates, Order 2000-11-5.

In an effort to improve universal mail service, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has established a network of international facilities strategically located throughout the United States. These International Service Centers (ISCs) consist mainly of new buildings designed for and dedicated to the receipt, distribution, and processing of foreign and military mail. The plans for each facility included an area that allows us to containerize mail in unit load devices (ULDs) provided by the air carriers.

The USPS has been loading ULDs on a limited basis for a number of years. We do so, in some cases, for security reasons as well as to improve operational efficiencies. Most, if not all, of these ULDs are destined for the Atlantic and Pacific regions. Due to the mainly narrow-body aircraft serving Canada and Mexico, Transborder mail is normally tendered in loose sack form versus containers.

The USPS believes there is insufficient recognition of containers in Order 2000-11-5. This and prior Department of Transportation (DOT) orders do not appropriately reflect the reduced costs associated with the growth in containerization. Because our goal is to increase the utilization of containers to improve operational and service performance, the USPS would like the DOT to resume the publication of container rates for all regions. The USPS is willing to work with the air carriers and your department to determine such rates.

Until then, I request that the proposed new rates as tentatively set by Order 2000-11-5 be made effective January 1, 2001, "until further order of the Department" instead of for the entire 2001 calendar year. This will allow the parties to informally discuss and hopefully resolve the issues during the ensuing months.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. McFadden
Executive Director (A)
International Network Operations

- cc Mr. Vogel
- Mr. Young
- Ms. Gillespie
- Mr. Alvis
- Mr. Kaibaugh

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