

Postal Rate Commission

§ 3002.8

(c) These functional activities are combined in the evaluation of the revenue requirements of the Postal Service under possible alternative operating circumstances for the purpose of developing rate structures. They are also used to evaluate the impact of various proposed changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the consequences of these changes upon the mailers and upon the revenue requirements and rate structure of the Postal Service.

(d) The office also collects, analyzes and periodically summarizes financial and various other statistical information for use in its ongoing activities and for the development of future methods, techniques and systems of analysis and reporting.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983, as amended at 62 FR 45530, Aug. 28, 1997. Redesignated at 64 FR 58337, Oct. 29, 1999]

§ 3002.6 Office of the General Counsel.

The General Counsel directs and coordinates the functions of the Office of the General Counsel and is directly responsible for the counseling and advisory services set forth in 39 CFR 3000.735-203. In accordance with § 3001.8 of the rules of practice, the General Counsel does not appear as an attorney in hearings in any proceeding before the Commission and takes no part in the preparation of evidence or argument presented in such hearings. The General Counsel represents the Commission in court proceedings and performs legal research on issues coming before the Commission; advises the Commission on the legal aspects of proposed legislation and rulemaking, the legal aspects of proposed action and policies on procurement, contracting, personnel matters, and other internal legal questions.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

§ 3002.7 Office of the Consumer Advocate.

(a) The Office of the Consumer Advocate provides representation for the interests of the general public in Commission proceedings. The office prepares and litigates before the Commis-

sion legal and evidentiary presentations in all formal Commission dockets under chapter 36 of title 39, U.S. Code. It also is responsible for maintaining a continuing litigation capability including preparation for consideration of issues likely to reflect the interests of the general public in subsequent proceedings.

(b) The head of this office is responsible for directing both legal and technical personnel to fulfill its functions. The office includes both litigation attorneys and a broad spectrum of technical expertise to analyze and evaluate the diverse economic, cost and market issues before the Commission. During the pendency of a proceeding, personnel serving in the Office of the Consumer Advocate are prohibited from participating or advising as to any intermediate or Commission decision in that proceeding pursuant to the Commission Rules of Practice.

(c) A mission statement regarding the Office of the Consumer Advocate is contained as appendix A to this part.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983, as amended at 64 FR 37402, July 12, 1999]

§ 3002.8 Official seal.

(a) *Authority.* The Seal described in this section is hereby established as the official seal of the Postal Rate Commission.

(b) *Description.* (1) On a white disc within a blue border with inner and outer rims gold and inscribed at top POSTAL RATE COMMISSION and in base, between two small five-pointed stars, 1970, all in gold, the shield of the coat of arms in full color blazoned as follows:

Five blue stars on a white stripe running from the upper left to the lower right of the shield, with three white billets on each of the upper and lower sections of the shield, the former blue and the latter red.

(2) The official seal of the Postal Rate Commission is modified when reproduced in black and white and when embossed, as it appears in this section.

(c) *Custody and authorization to affix.*

(1) The seal is the official emblem of the Postal Rate Commission and its use is therefore permitted only as provided in this part.

(2) The seal shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary and is to be used to authenticate records of the Postal Rate Commission and for other official purposes.

(3) Use by any person or organization outside of the Commission may be made only with the Commission's prior written approval. Such request must be made in writing to the Secretary.

[39 FR 2481, Jan. 22, 1974. Redesignated at 42 FR 3646, Jan. 19, 1977, and 48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

APPENDIX A TO PART 3002—POSTAL RATE COMMISSION, MISSION STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

The mission of the Office of the Consumer Advocate is to be a vigorous, responsive, and effective advocate for reasonable and equitable treatment of the general public in proceedings before the Postal Rate Commission.

In furtherance of this mission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate will:

1. Give a strong and consistent voice to the views of consumers, especially those that are not otherwise represented in Commission proceedings;
2. Argue for equity on behalf of individuals and small businesses, both as senders and as recipients of mail and mail services;
3. Utilize all means and procedures available under the Commission's rules and applicable law to present evidence and arguments on behalf of consumers in Commission proceedings;
4. Assist in the development of a complete record on issues pending before the Commission;

5. Engage in dialogue with parties or participants in proceedings before the Commission to advance the interests of consumers;

6. Encourage the equitable settlement of issues among the parties and participants in proceedings whenever possible;

7. Promote fair competition between the United States Postal Service and its competitors for the ultimate benefit of consumers;

8. Seek out responsible advocates of consumer interests and encourage their participation in Commission cases;

9. Maintain the highest standards of competence and quality in all evidence and pleadings submitted to the Commission; and

10. Maintain separation and independence from the Commission and its advisory staff in the course of proceedings before the Commission.

[64 FR 37402, July 12, 1999]

PART 3003—PRIVACY ACT RULES

Sec.

3003.1 Purpose and scope.

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3003.7 Exemptions.

AUTHORITY: Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-579), 5 U.S.C. 552a.

SOURCE: 64 FR 57982, Oct. 28, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3003.1 Purpose and scope.

This part implements the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) by establishing Commission policies and procedures that permit individuals to obtain access to and request amendment of information about themselves that is maintained in systems of records. This part does not expand or restrict any rights granted under the Privacy Act of 1974.

§ 3003.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Commission* means the Postal Rate Commission.

(b) *Individual, record, and system of records* have the meanings specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(a).

(c) *Day* means a calendar day and does not include Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.