



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Labor Relations Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-4100
September 29, 1987

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RECEIVED
H. J. M. H. U. R. I. V. A.

Mr. Louis D. Elesie
International Trustee
National Post Office Mail Handlers,
Watchmen, Messengers and Group
Leaders, AFL-CIO
One Thomas Circle, N.W., Suite 525
Washington, DC 20005-5802

Dear Mr. Elesie:

During the course of the 1987 contract negotiations, the parties agreed that Management would issue clarification instructions regarding Operations 110-129 and 180-189 of Regional Instruction 399.

Pursuant to that agreement and as a matter of general information, we are providing you with copies of the language that has been agreed to between the U.S. Postal Service and the National Post Office Mail Handlers, and between the U.S. Postal Service and the Joint Bargaining Committee (American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers).

Both documents are designed to alleviate the confusion that exists concerning the distinction between "basic local/out-of-town splits" which is assigned to mail handlers, and "distribution" which is assigned to clerks.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, or if you would like a meeting to further discuss this matter, please contact Bill Downes at 268-3802.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Fritsch
Assistant Postmaster General

Enclosures

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LETTER OF INTENT

The parties agree that no later than ninety (90) days from the effective date of the 1987 National Agreement, Management will issue the following clarifying instructions regarding Operations 110-129 and 180-189 of Regional Instruction 399.

The following provides additional guidance to determine the appropriate craft designation and assignment for distribution and separation activities for Operations Numbers 110-129 and 180-189 opening unit activities.

The current language in Regional Instruction 399 for Operations 110-129 and 180-189 contains instructions to assign mail handlers to "Cull/separate mail by type/ characteristics and make basic local/out-of-town splits to trays, hampers, gurneys, conveyers, nutting trucks, or other containers."

Additional instructions are contained in the document to assign clerks to "Distribution of outgoing IPP's, newspapers, rolls, letter of flat bundles, slugs, Special Delivery of Special Handling parcel post."

There has been some confusion as to the distinction between "basic local/out-of-town splits," which is assigned to mail handlers, and distribution, which is assigned to clerks.

The term basic local/out-of-town splits was intended to encompass that activity where initial separations are made by ZIP Code and city, state address information, to expedite subsequent distribution or dispatching and pouching operations. For example, the type of separations allowable would be for local city, local SCF, home state, SCFs and major cities within the home state, states for which the local office performs major city and sectional center separations in their pouching operations, groups of mixed states, where separation in the opening unit would expedite pouching operations. The allowable separations will be based on city, state, and 3- and 5-digit ZIP Code information.

Thomas J. Fritsch
Assistant Postmaster General
Labor Relations Department
U.S. Postal Service

Louis D. Elesie
International Trustee
Mail Handlers Division,
LIUNA, AFL-CIO

Date: _____

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
AND THE
JOINT BARGAINING COMMITTEE
(AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO)

The parties agree that no later than ninety (90) days from the effective date of the 1987 National Agreement, Management will issue the following clarifying instructions regarding Operation 110-129 and 180-189 of Regional Instruction 399. The Postal Service will not make any changes in R.I. 399 during the life of this Agreement without the agreement of the Unions.

The following provides additional guidelines to determine the appropriate craft designation and assignment for distribution and separation activities for Operations Numbers 110-129 and 180-189 unit activities.

The current language in Regional Instruction 399 for Operations 110-129 and 180-189 contains instructions to assign clerks to "Distribution of outgoing IPP's, newspapers, rolls, letter or

flat bundles, slugs, Special Delivery or Special Handling parcel post."

Additional instructions are contained in the document to assign mail handlers to "Cull/separate mail by type/characteristics and make basic local/out-of-town splits to trays, hampers, gurneys, conveyers, nutting trucks, or other containers" in Operations 110-129 and 180-189.

There has been some confusion as to the distinction between "basic local/out-of-town splits," which is assigned to mail handlers, and distribution, which is assigned to clerks.

The term distribution, as defined in Section 521.2 of the M-32 Handbook, includes a sortation of mail to ADC's, states, sectional centers, cities, foreign countries, official mail, associate offices, stations, branches, carrier routes, holdouts (e.g., firms, addresses, institutions, boxes), box sections, ZIP Codes, uncoded mail, nixie, APO, FPO, or similar separations.

All distribution of mail in Operations 110-129 and 180-189 is the work of the clerk craft.

The Unions signatory to this Memorandum of Understanding are not bound by any other agreement or Letter of Intent between the Employer and any other Union.

Thomas J. Fritsch
Assistant Postmaster General
Labor Relations Department
U.S. Postal Service

Moe Biller
President
American Postal Workers Union,
AFL-CIO

Vincent R. Sombrotto
President
National Association of
Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

Date: _____