

## I. INTRODUCTION

The enclosed "Mail Processing Work Assignment Guidelines," provide primary craft designations relative to the performance of specific mail processing work functions. Compliance with the principles contained therein is mandatory and applicable to the assignment of all categories of employees in the regular work force. These assignment guidelines are to be implemented at all postal installations which perform mail processing, in accordance with the implementation criteria outlined below and consistent with the terms of the 1978 National Agreement.
II. IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA
A. Efficient and Effective Operation

All actions taken relative to implementation of these guidelines must be consistent with an efficient and effective operation. Consistent with this obligation, no postal installation shall declare employees excess, increase the number of employees and/or increase work hours solely as a result of this instruction.
B. Four (4) Hours Criteria

If there are four (4) or more hours of continuous work consisting of one or more work functions in one or more operations designated to the same primary craft, the performance of the work should be assigned to an employee of that primary craft.
C. Distribution Activities

Where the functions of obtaining empty equipment, obtaining unprocessed mail, loading ledges and sweeping are an integral part of the distribution function and cannot be efficiently separated, the entire operation will be assigned to the primary craft performing the distribution activity.

| INITIATING OFFICE |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
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## D. Changes in Duty Assignments

No employee's current duty assignment will be modified by removing functions designated to another primary craft until and unless such duty assignment becomes vacant through attrition. In addition, management may continue to revert or abolish positions no longer needed.
E. Assignment of New and/or Additional Work

Assignment of new or additional work, not previously existing in the installation, shall be made in accordance with the primary craft designations contained in this instruction.

## III. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

A. Responsibilities

Sectional Center Managers will review mail processing operations in installations within their designated MSC areas. This review will include, at a minimum, an examination of the work being performed, current duty assignments and a determination concerning what actions will be necessary to comply with the "Mail Processing Work Assignment Guidelines."
B. Identification of Primary Craft

All post offices with mail processing operations will, based on the primary craft designations, identify:

1. full-time clerk or mail handler duty assignments which are assigned to the inappropriate craft.
2. full-time clerk or mail handler duty assignments which include both clerk and mail handler primary craft functions.
3. work functions performed by part-time flexible clerks and mail handlers.
C. Implementation Plan

Based upon the above identification, each sectional center manager will develop a detailed implementation plan which will contain at a minimum:

1. the number of full-time clerk and mail handler employees.
2. the number, by tour and duties, of full-time clerks and mail handlers:
a. with 8 hour assignments in the inappropriate craft.
b. whose duty assignments includes 4 or more (but less than 8) hours of work in the inappropriate craft.
3. the number of full-time clerk and mail handler vacancies as of January 26, 1979.
4. the number of full-time clerk and mail handler vacancies that are anticipated, by postal quarter, during PQ's III and IV, FY 1979, and FY 1980.
5. the number of clerk and mail handler part-time flexible employees.
6. the number of clerk and mail handler part-time flexible employees, by tour, duties and hours, performing primary craft functions designated to a different craft.
7. actions that will be taken to achieve immediate compliance, and those actions which will require phased implementation:
8. the estimated time frame (as may be necessary) for implementation, including quarterly estimates.
9. any current clerk or mail handler functions not covered in the "Mail Processing Work Assignment Guidelines."
D. Adherence

Each sectional center manager will insure that the following actions, when taken, are consistent with this instruction:

1. Review each vacant full-time clerk and mail handler duty assignment.
2. Establishment of new full-time duty assignments.
3. Accession of clerk and mail handler employees.
4. Scheduling and staffing studies.

## E. Reporting Requirements

The management sectional center implementation plan will be forwarded by March 19, 1979, through the District Office to the Regional Director, Mail Processing, who will be responsible for approving the MSC's plan, insuring its timely and effective implementation, and for monitoring performance against the plan. At least once every six months, a designated regional coordinator will review each MSC to determine its progress relative to making proper clerk-mail handler work assignments. The first review cycle must be completed no later than September 1, 1979, with subsequent regional reviews of MSC performance occurring semi-annually thereafter.

C. Neil Benson Acting Senior Assistant

Postmaster General
Operations Group
Enclosure
Standard distribution plus 2 copies to each MSC

## MAIL PROCESSING WORK ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

U. S. Postal Service November 15, 1.978

001 Platform Acceptance and Weigher's Unit

1. Accept, classify, and compute postage on sccond- and third-class mail.
2. Determine correct classification of second- and third-class and all other matter mailed under a permit, and determine if sufficient deposit has been made by the mailer to cover the cost of mailing.
3. Accept pre-cancelled and meter matter mailed in bulk quantities and verify postage.
4. Accept other classes of mail and receipts if necessary.
5. Advise customers as to proper mailing procedures.
6. Maintain records of permit holders, deposits, withdrawals and miscellaneous information.
7. Make necessary reports and submit to the manager of finance or equivalent.

010 Originating 1. Transporting empty equipment. Mail Preparation
2. Obtaining mail (courtesy windows, drop units, staging areas, etc.).
3. Open and dump sacks or other containers.
4. Cull (separate mail by type, and make basic local/out of town splits into trays, hampers, conveyors, etc.).
5. Tray loose metered mail, etc.

010 Originating 6. Face and cancel letters on the Mail Preparation (Continued) facer canceler (Mark II or equivalent).
7. Cancel letters on Mark II that were rejected on first pass.
8. Hand cancel, cancel with model $G$ or other device.
9. Tray canceled mail for distribution operations.
10. Rate and cancel short paid mail.
11. Repair damaged letters.
12. Examine sacks for mail content.
13. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations.
14. Back stamping of missent mail.

020 Originating l. Transporting empty equipment. Meter Mail Preparation
2. Prepare originating metered, permit
imprint, and official penalty mail received from collection routes, lobby drop, dock, slides; chutes, conveyors, and other sources for distribution.
3. Traying letters and separating mail by type into different containers, separating by local and out of town.
4. Reporting mail with incorrect meter dates and rating short paid mail.
5. Identification and handling of presorted and riffle mail.

029 Riffle Mail
Distribution of customer scquenced mail by ZIf coảe, stato or othcruise, which is sorticd by batches, avoiding piece by piece distribution. Riffle

Mail Hancler

Mail Handler

Mail Hanclex

Mail Handler

## Clerk

Mail Handler
Mail Handler
Clerk

Mail Handler
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Mail Handler

Mail Handler

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Operation
029 Riffle Mail Continued

## Punction

mail can be sorted at letter cases, tray packs or pouch racks, depending on the make up.

030 Combined 1. * Transporting empty equipment.
Mail Handler OutgoingIncoming Letter Primary
2. *Obtaining letters from staging areas for distribution.
3. *Loading ledges.
4. Manual distribution of letter mail.
5. Distribution of NIXIE mail.
6. *Sweeping, containerizing and transporting.
7. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations.
8. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers.

040 Outgoing 1.*Transporting empty equipment. Letter Secondary
2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail.
3. *Loading ledges.
4. Manual distribution of letter mail.
5. Distribution of NIXIE mail.

Mail Handler

Mail Handler
Clerk
Clerk

Mail Handler

Clerk

Mail Handler

Mail Handler
Mail Handler
Mail Handler
Clerk

Clerk
*In offices where the tasks of obtaining empty equipment, obtaining unprocessed mail, loading ledges, sweeping and containerizing is ar: integral part of the distribution function, the entire operation is; a function of the primary craft performing the distribution.

| Operation | Function | $\begin{gathered} \text { Primary } \\ \text { Craft } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 040 Outgoing Letter Secondary (Continued) | 6. *Sweeping | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. Yulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| 043 State DistributionLetters | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of letter mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 6. *Sweeping | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| 044 Sectional Center Distribution letters | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail. | Mail Handle:r |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of letter mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Distribution of NIXIE Mail. | - Clerk |
|  | 9. *ulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| *Note-See asterisk, page 3 . - 4 - |  |  |


| Operation | Function | $\begin{gathered} \text { Primary } \\ \text { Craft } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ```0 4 5 \text { Non-} Preferential Distribution- Letters``` | 1. * Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of letter mail. | Clerk |
|  | : |  |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerization \& transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| $050 / 055$ <br> Priority Mail <br> Distribution | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Culling, facing and canceling. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Opening and dumping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. *Transporting mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 5. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. Distribution of priority mail. | Clerk |
|  | 7. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 8. *Containerizing. | Mail Handler |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches or other containers. | Mail Handler |
|  | 10. Rating mail matter. | Clerk |
|  | 11. Maintaining current schedules and schemes. | Clerk |
|  | 12. Handling registry mail. | Clerk |

[^0]| Operation | Function | Primary Craft |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 050/055 } \\ & \text { Priority Mail } \end{aligned}$ | 13. Maintaining receipt and dispatch records. | Clerk |
|  | 14. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
| 060 Outgoing <br> Flat Primary | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of flat mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| 070 Outgoing <br> Flat Secondary | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of flat mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |

[^1]


| Operation | Function | Primary Craft |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 100 Outgoing Parcel | 7. *Containerizing and transporting mail to dispatch areas. | Mail Handler |
| Distribution (Continued) | 8. *Hanging sacks and inserting labels. | Mail Handlcr |
| 105 Mechanized Parcel Sorter | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining mail fromstaging areas. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Dumping sacks or containers. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Distribution of parcel post through the use of parcel sorting machines. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Pulling and dispatching sacks or other containers. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting mail to dispatch areas. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. *Handling sacks and inserting labels. | Mail Handler |
| 109 Rewrap | 1. Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. Obtaining mail from staging areas. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. Assembling contents of damaged parcels. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Operate strapping machines, heat tunnels and other rewrap mechanization. Reload mechanization with strapping, film, etc., and provide routine daily maintenance on mechanization. | Mail Handler |
|  | 5. Readdressing parcels. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. Keeping records as required. | Mail Handler |
|  | Note: All of the work performed in this operation can be considered an integral function of Operation 100 or 200 and may be assigned to the craft doing that distribution. |  |

[^2]| Operation | Function | Primary Craft |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 110-129 Outgoing SPR Distribution Pouch Sack \& Loose Pouch | 1. * Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining mail from staging area. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Dumping sacks, pouches, or containers. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. *Hanging sacks or pouches. | Mail Handler |
|  | 5. *Inserting labels. | Clerk |
|  | 6. *Cutting bundles and facing letters and flats. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Distribution of outgoing IPP's, newspapers, rolls, letter or flat bundles, slugs, Special Delivery or Special Handling parcel post. | Clerk |
|  | 8. *Pulling sacks, pouches or containers for dispatch. | Mail Handler |
|  | 9. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 10. *Operating "strapping" equipment. | Mail Handler |
| 134 Sectional Center Distribution | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining unprocessed mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading unprocessed mail. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerization and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |

[^3]| Operation | Function | $\begin{gathered} \text { Primary } \\ \text { Craft } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 150 Incoming Letter Primary | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handle= |
|  | 2. *Obtaining mail from staging area. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of letter mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handle: |
| 160 Incoming Letter. Secondary | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining mail from staging area. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of letter mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |


| Operation | Function | Primary <br> Craft |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 168 / 169 \text { Box } \\ & \text { Section } \\ & \text { Primary } \\ & \text { and Secondary } \end{aligned}$ | 1. *Transporting empty equipment: | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining mail from staging areas. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. *Hanging and labeling sacks or pouches. | Mail Handler |
|  | 5. Manual distribution of mail. | Clerk |
|  | 6. Window service incidental to box section activities. | Clerk |
|  | 7. *Pulling and dispatching sacks or pouches. | Mail Handler |
|  | 8. Distribuiton of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 9. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 10. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
| 170 Incoming <br> Flat Primary | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining flats from staging area. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Manual distribution of flat mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
| - | 6. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| *Note - See as | erisk, page 3 |  |


| Operation | Function | Primary Craft |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 175 Incoming Flat Secondary | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining flats from staging area. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Loading ledges. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. Distribution of flat mail. | Clerk |
|  | 5. *Sweeping. | Mail Handler |
|  | 6. *Containerizing and transporting mail to dispatch areas. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. Distribution of NIXIE mail. | Clerk |
|  | 8. Identifying and reporting, as appropriate, mail not meeting postal regulations. | Clerk |
|  | 9. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |
| 180-189 <br> Incoming. SPR Distribution, Opening and Traying | 1. *Transporting empty equipment. | Mail Handler |
|  | 2. *Obtaining mail from staging areas. | Mail Handler |
|  | 3. *Dumpina sacks, pouches, or containers. | Mail Handler |
|  | 4. *Hanging and labeling sacks or pouches. | Mail Handl: ${ }^{\text {r }}$ |
|  | 5. Distribution of incoming IPP's newspaper rolls, letter or flat bundles, Special Delivery or Special Handling parcel post to sacks, pouches, or containers. | Clerk |
|  | 6. *Cutting bundles and facing letters and flats. | Mail Handler |
|  | 7. *Containerizing and transporting. | Mail Handler |
|  | 8. *Pulling and dispatching pouches and/or other containers. | Mail Handler |

*Notc - Sce asterisk, page 3


| Operation |  | Function | Primary Craft |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210-239 | 11. | Transporting mail to and from | Mail Handle: |
| Platform |  | platform areas. |  |
| Operations (Continued) | 12. | Making dock connection transfers. | Clerk |
| 240-339 |  | Distribution of mail. | Clerk |
| Distribution at Stations |  | -The designation of a primary craft can be applied to a detached unit |  |
| \& Branches |  | which performs or supports a mail processing operation. |  |
| 549 Sack Examination | 1. | Examining and segregating empty bags. | Mail Handle |
|  | 2. | Bundling, sacking, tying and labeling empty mail bags. | Mail Handle: |

bullk biall cemters
Primary Craft Designations

In Culk Mail Centers, whore the tasks of eransporting sapty equirment and mail, as well às other ancillary activities, are an integral part of the distribution function and cannot be separated, the entire operation is a function of the primary craft performing the distribution.

Opeation
Inbound Docks

Outbound Docks

1. Load vehicles
2. Culling
3. Roller table separations . Mailhandler
4. Tend missent/malfunction chutes
5. Staye and trarsport Mailhandler
containers
6. Vehicle record keeping

Primary Craft
Hailhandler
Hail handler
Mailhandler
Hailhandier
Wailliandler
Cler:
Clerk

Mailhandier
Mailhandler

MailhandTer

Clerk

| Opcration | Flinction | Primary Cr:fit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Primary Parcel Sorting | 1. Facing and keying | Clerk |
|  | 2. Culling at parcel induction stations. | Clerk |
|  | 3. Minor on-site repairs/bag danage. | Clerk |
|  | 4. Sort foreign mail. | Cierk |
|  | 5. Distribution at roller tables to sacks/containers. | Clerk |
|  | 6. Distribution at missents/malfunction chutes. | Clerk |
|  | 7. Container loader tending | Mailhandler |
|  | 8. Obtaining and moving cinpt:y equipment. | Mailhandler |
| Secondary Parcel Sorting. | 1. Facing and keying | Clerk |
|  | 2. Culling for minor on-site repairs. | Clerk |
|  | 3. Distribution of parcels to sacks/containers. | Clerk |
|  | 4. Container loader tending | Mailhandler |
|  | 5. Obtaining and moving empty equipment. | Mailhandler |

Sack Sorting, Rewrap
IP's and Non-ZIP
Coding

Sack Shakeut, Container Dumping
loose in the Hil

1. Sack sorting keying.

Hailliáideder
2. Culling and on-site repairs. Hailtandier
3. Tend missent/malfunction Mailhandler chutes
4. Rewrap . . Fiailhandier
5. Zİ Coding unzipped mail. Clerk
6. Dumping hampers, sacks, etc. Mailhandler
7. Culling of irregular parcels. Mailhandler
8. Sorting of irregular parcels. Clerk
9. Empty equipment handling
10. Transport sacks/containers
11. Sack sorter run out tending

1. Sack shakeout
2. Container dumping Mailhandler
3. culling for non-machirable . . Maithanciler mail and damaged parcels.
4. Empty sack processing .. . Mailhandler
5. Sort, match and record. keeping
6. Collect and transport Mailhandler
7. Culling and trash screening

Nailhardler
Mai ThandTer-
Mailhandler
MaithanderMailhancilerClerkMailhandler



[^0]:    *Note - See asterisk, page 3

[^1]:    *Note - See asterisk, page 3

[^2]:    *Note - See asterisk, page 3

[^3]:    *Note - See asterisk, page 3

