

Northland Notes June 2017

One “1” slots:

My mantra has always been that if it affects my wages hours and conditions of employment (working conditions) “file” the grievance and let that process develop the issues. Specifically, to many questioners, I know not any of your office case configurations though I do know the volume of cased mail has dropped greatly over the years while parcels are up significantly thus in many offices the space constraints require changes and if utilization of 1 inch separations or 2 deliveries per two-inch separation creates empty case equipment that equipment can be removed. Bottom line is the directive to the field states review the ‘need’ for each delivery point and adjust as needed.

Leave times:

DM Williams indicated to me that ‘leave times’ for carriers are going to be scrutinized closely based on the rural work hour tracker as well as his instruction to the field is that where applicable front-line managers are to utilize city carrier volumes as a measure of casing (office) time with the caveat that rural carriers can case DPS and FSS mail. That said, all carriers need be cognizant of the volumes of mail that are cased and the appropriate standards should management be challenging their office times.

CONVERSION OF D.U.V.R.S. (LINEAR MAIL VOLUME) TO PIECE COUNT

Tray contains approximately 1.75 feet of mail – a full tub of flats depends on tub
DPS approximately 215 pieces per foot – NO casing standard though the street standard has been applied
Raw Letters approximately 227 pieces per foot Casing standard 18 pieces/minute
Flats approximately 115 pieces per foot Casing standard 10 pieces/minute
Boxholders approximately 115 pieces per foot NO casing standard our choice to case – street rate 24 minutes
PARCELS – No set office standard and that can vary greatly by route;

Safety:

By now most have received the talk **Eliminating Unsafe Acts** – the bottom line on this issue is that discipline has already started up to an including emergency placements and likely removals for egregious violations of Article 16.5 and associated language from the PO 603. Be professional drivers observing and adhering to all laws and USPS rules to include safe office practices.

Satchels:

Many calls about satchels – refer to 1” slots though in the case of ‘required’ use of satchels a grievance will need be filed to get the appropriate base hour change for an additional job function.

Borrowing:

DM Williams addressed that issue with his senior leadership team informing them that ‘borrowing’ is not an acceptable practice other than ‘absolute’ emergencies and provision for relief days, limiting overtime, in other words by-passing regular and relief carriers in the assigned work unit will not be acceptable “nor” is DM Williams pleased with paying twice for the same route when these situations are grieved. Bottom line for carriers is that the contract and associated handbooks and manuals state that we can be required to work relief days, required in the case of relief carriers to work Sundays, and yes leave can be denied if no coverage is available.

Hiring:

DM Williams indicated one, that he has a detailed ‘team’ to address specific office situations as he realizes that relief is needed for many relief carriers to include ARC’s; two, there have been a great many PTF positions created to address the issue, finally, the formulization of offices will escalate.

Do your Job (A30/PO 603): Ask (discuss) management; File the grievance (A15.3); **Steward** in all offices (A17)!