



July 12, 2019

Mr. Brian J. Wagner  
President  
National Association of Postal Supervisors  
1727 King Street, Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

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Dear Brian:

This letter is in regard to the jurisdictional craft determination for operation of the Enhanced Package Processing Sorter (EPPS). A site visit to observe the operation of the EPPS was conducted with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) on April 2, at the Portland, Oregon Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC). In attendance for the APWU were Lynn Pallas-Barber, Ron Suslak and local representatives. In attendance for the NPMHU were Kevin Fletcher and local representatives. In attendance for the United States Postal Service (USPS) were Rickey Dean and Shannon Richardson.

The unions had previously been informed of the EPPS system during Technological and Mechanization meetings, in accordance with Article 4 of their respective collective bargaining agreements, in October 2017 and December 2018.

The EPPS processes packages which are inducted on the system through either automatic induction, or supplemental (manual) induction. The EPPS is a stacked cross belt sorter allowing for induction to occur at multiple locations on the system. The sorter can range in outputs from 400 to 800 and can scan and sort packages up to 25 pounds and 15" x 18" x 22". It has the ability to process up to 25,000 packages per hour.

With the exception of the supplemental induction stations, the induction and sweeping duties performed on the EPPS are most similar to those on the Automated Package Processing System (APPS). The duties performed on the supplemental induction stations are integral to the distribution function of the machine, and are most similar to the manual induction duties performed on the Automated Parcel Bundle Sorter (APBS) and the Small Parcel Sorting System (SPSS).

After reviewing the equipment operation, carefully considering the input from the APWU and the NPMHU, and applying the principles of RI-399, the Postal Service has determined the primary craft designation for the performance of duties for operation of the EPPS is as follows:

1. Retrieval and staging of parcel containers                      Mail Handler Craft
2. Unload containers onto the Auto Induction  
and Supplemental Induction stations utilizing  
powered container unloaders, and cull out NMOs      Mail Handler Craft
3. At the Supplemental Induction stations,  
singulate and orient parcels, cull out  
non-machineables (NMO) and induct

onto the sorter backbone

Clerk Craft

4. \*Sweep full containers, including sacks, stage full containers or sacks for down-flow operations or dispatch

Mail Handler Craft

\*Where necessary, sweeping duties may be performed by Clerk Craft employees for rotational relief purposes.

The actual number of employees required to perform the duties associated with the EPPS at any time will be determined based on local configuration and operational needs. Where the EPPS has already been installed and is operational, assignment of the appropriate craft in accordance with this determination will be made as expeditiously as possible but no later than 90 days from the date of this letter.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, *Update of Regional Instruction (RI) 399 Procedures*, dated June 26, 2018, the above stated craft designation will go into effect no sooner than 45 days from the receipt of this notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shannon Richardson at extension 5842.

Sincerely,



 Rickey R. Dean  
Manager  
Contract Administration (APWU)