

2 JAN 1979

MEMORANDUM TO: All Regional Postmasters General

This has further reference to our discussion at the last RPMG meeting on December 14, 1978, concerning the drinking of coffee at the case by city letter carriers.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding the Union raised the question of carriers consuming coffee at their cases, if the office break option had not been chosen. They were advised that a reasonable approach would be followed at those delivery units where this practice had previously been permitted.

At those delivery units where the drinking of coffee was previously permitted, in conjunction with the casing of mail, that practice may be continued. This does not apply to those units where drinking coffee at the case was not allowed in the past. Further, carriers will not be permitted to leave their cases after clocking in to obtain coffee. It must be obtained prior to clocking in. Consumption of coffee must be done while working. That is, the employee cannot stop work to drink the coffee, but must consume it in such a fashion so work is interrupted only a few seconds at a time.

The drinking of coffee at the case is a privilege and can be withdrawn if the practice interferes with the normal operation of the unit, or good housekeeping practices.

*EVD by GRB*

E. V. Dorsey  
Senior Assistant Postmaster General