

LABOR RELATIONS



RECEIVED

DEC 16 1997

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION UNIT  
N.A.L.C. WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Vincent Sombrotto  
President  
National Association of Letter  
Carriers, AFL-CIO  
100 Indiana Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2197

Re: A94N-4A-C 97003065  
CLASS ACTION  
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08899-9998

Dear Mr. Sombrotto:

On several occasions, the most recent being December 11, 1997, I met with your representative to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The instant case deals with a locally issued directive concerning open vehicle doors and the use of seat belts.

During our discussion, we mutually agreed that the currently effective regulations were published in the Postal Bulletin 21486 dated November 11, 1984. However, through Article 19 discussions, the parties have recently agreed to revise that policy as follows. The official policy will be included in the next publication of Handbook M-41, section 812.


**Seatbelts must be worn all times the vehicle is in motion. Exception for Long Life Vehicles:** In instances when the shoulder belt prevents the driver from reaching to provide delivery or collection from curbside mailboxes, only the shoulder belt may be unfastened. The lap belt must remain fastened at all times the vehicle is in motion.


When traveling to and from the route, when moving between park and relay points, and when entering or crossing intersecting roadways, all vehicle doors must be closed. When operating a vehicle on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or less at speeds not exceeding 15 MPH between delivery stops, the door on the drivers side may be left open.

Based on the foregoing, the parties agreed to remand this case to Step 3 for application of the above understanding and to close the case in this matter.

Time limits were extended by mutual consent.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nora A. Becker  
Grievance and Arbitration  
Labor Relations

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

Date: 1/13/98