

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO**

Re: Interim Agreement - Route Inspection Task Force and Multiple Days of Inspection


In his award in B94N-4B-C 97105300, Arbitrator Stephen Briggs ruled that the Postal Service may not properly inspect a city route each of the six days of a full route count and inspection.

The parties recognize that the current route evaluation process can be improved to better respond to the current and future business environment. To that end the parties agree to the following:

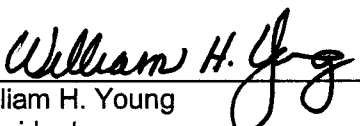
First: The parties have agreed to establish a task force whose primary mission is to jointly develop a new method for inspecting and adjusting city routes that is cost effective, accurate, credible, and is fair to both business needs and city letter carriers. The task force will be comprised of an equal number of representatives of the Postal Service and the NALC, and will convene no later than thirty days from the signing of this memorandum. It will make its report to the Vice President, Labor Relations and the President of the NALC no later than August 30, 2003.

Second: A dispute still exists between the parties regarding multiple days of inspection less than six. During the period the task force pursues its mission, the "interim period," the parties have agreed that local management will, if it determines it necessary when scheduling an inspection to inspect on more than one day, inspect no more than three days during the week of count and inspection. If local management elects to inspect on two or three days during the week of count and inspection, local management will be responsible for completion of the 1838-C one of the days. The letter carrier will count the mail and complete the 1838-C on the other days of inspection. When local management elects to inspect on two or three days, the PS Form 3999 closest to the selected street time on the PS Form 1840 will be used to transfer territory.

The terms of this memorandum are applicable from the date of the memorandum through August 30, 2003 (interim period) unless mutually extended by the parties. This agreement is without precedent or prejudice to either party's position regarding the number of days a route may be inspected outside the interim period, and may not be cited by either party, except for the purpose of enforcing its terms.



Doug A. Tulino
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William H. Young
President
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