



## American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

February 15, 2019

### Michael O. Foster

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### Sent by Facsimile and First-class Mail

Rickey Dean, Manager  
Contract Administration  
US Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260

RE: First Article Testing of the new cab behind engine diesel powered tractor manufactured by Navistar in New Carlisle, IN

Dear Rickey,

On January 29-31, 2019, certified national APWU representatives attended the First Article Test (FAT) of the cab behind engine diesel powered tractor in New Carlisle, Indiana.

Please be advised that due to the inclement weather, APWU representatives were unable to participate and observe the First Article Testing (FAT) in its entirety. The APWU reserves the right pursuant to Article 39.3 B. to add our initial concerns letter dated, February 15, 2019.

Additionally, the Postal Service agreed to provide the union with a series of videos depicting those parts of the FAT APWU representatives were unable to observe, including a video demonstrating the coupling and uncoupling of the test tractor to a trailer.

Pursuant to Article 39.3.B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, in the interest of safety and health and other considerations. The Union submits the following concerns and issues for response.

1. The outside steps to climb onto the catwalk are narrow and pose a tripping hazard. – A recommendation was made to widen the steps.
2. The grab-handle for the steps mentioned in (1) above, is cumbersome and difficult to reach. – The Union recommends replacing handles with one that is nearer to the step and facilitates holding onto before climbing the steps.
3. Driver's side in the cab handle interferes with seat adjustment. – The Union recommends removal of this particular handle.
4. The catwalk behind the cab is too narrow and poses a falling/tripping hazard. – The Union recommends adding another section to widen the catwalk.

5. The engine hood is extremely heavy and difficult to open and close posing a safety hazard. – The Union recommends adding an external handle located closer to the front of the truck, and adding a step to the front bumper for reach and leverage.
6. The fan inside the cab is extremely flimsy and should be properly anchored.
7. Please provide a video demonstrating coupling and uncoupling the tractor and trailer. The Union has serious concerns with potential problems in coupling and uncoupling the tractor to a trailer given the limited clearance due to the rear cross member height and protruding bolts. The Postal Service has committed to providing the Union with a video demonstrating coupling and uncoupling the tractor and trailer at different angles. The Union will reserve further comments until it has the opportunity to view the video.
8. Please provide the safety program for the familiarization and operation of the cab behind engine diesel powered tractor. The Union also has serious concerns with the proper training and familiarization of the driver/operator, as well as with the proper training of the technicians and mechanics since this is a new vehicle with modern features that the trucks currently in use do not have.
9. The Union request the deployment schedule for the tractors.
10. The Union was promised a picture of the inside of the cab. The Union reiterates this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael O. Foster", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Michael O. Foster, Director  
Motor Vehicle Service Division