LABOR RELATIONS

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

December 8, 2025

Mr. Jonathan Smith
President
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20005-4128

Certified Mail Tracking Number:
9589 0710 5270 2076 9750 74

Dear Jonathan:

This letter is in regard to the jurisdictional craft determination for operation of the Matrix Regional Sorter (MaRS). A site visit to observe the operation of the MaRS was conducted with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) on January 31, 2024, at the Atlanta, GA Regional Processing and Distribution Center (RPDC).

The APWU and NPMHU have previously been informed of the MaRS during Technological and Mechanization meetings and prior written correspondence.

The MaRS is a system of individual sorters (dubbed "Strands") designed to handle all machinable parcels. The MaRS is fed via an array of conveyors, referred to as the Dock-to-Machine (D2M) System, which includes parcel dumpers and culling areas. The MaRS primary induction is a fully automated system that singulates mail parcels and processes the singulated parcels through six-sided scan tunnel camera systems, which scan all barcodes and images all sides of the mail piece. The MaRS includes multiple secondary inductions via staffed exception re-handling systems (dubbed "Flatten and Face" (FnF) and "Relabel" (RELA), respectively) to facilitate re-inducting mail into the system. The MaRS can be configured based on a site's anticipated package volume and available floor space; all current MaRS are 8-Strand systems with the ability to process up to 56,000 parcels per hour (pph), and a forthcoming fourth system in New Jersey will be a 12-Strand system designed to handle in excess of 85,000 pph. All MaRS systems are capable of handling and sorting parcels that are considered machinable mail pieces (up to 25 pounds and 15" x 18" x 22" [H x W x L]). The length of the MaRS is also configurable, which determines the overall quantity of outputs (containers) that a MaRS can sort to. Current MaRS have approximately 124-140 direct outputs (62-70 per side). However, the MaRS has the capability to utilize "secondary" sortation via downflow sorters (dubbed "Child Sorters"). The Child Sorters currently being used with the MaRS at the Atlanta, GA RPDC, Chicago, IL RPDC, and Indianapolis, IN RPDC are Single Induction Package Sorters (SIPSs)[1]. The upcoming New Jersey RPDC MaRS will use Parallel Induction Linear Sorters (PILSs) as Child Sorters.

[1] The Postal Service issued a national jurisdictional craft determination on the SIPS, dated November 14, 2022. The jurisdictional assignments identified in the SIPS determination should be applied when attached to a MaRS.

Additionally, the MaRS at the Atlanta, GA RPDC is currently being retrofitted with a Supplemental Sorter, which modifies the secondary induction and includes FnF and RELA. The MaRS that will be deployed to the future New Jersey RPDC will be built with a Supplemental Sorter by design. The addition of the Supplemental Sorter to the MaRS does not change the functionality of FnF; however, the addition of the Supplemental Sorter to the MaRS does add keying to the existing RELA function.

The induction and sweeping duties performed on the MaRS are most similar to those on the High Output Package Sorter (HOPS). The duties performed at the exception re-handling systems on the MaRS, are, likewise, most similar to those on the HOPS.

After reviewing the equipment operation, carefully considering the input from the APWU and 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 MaRS is as follows:

1.	Retrieval and staging of parcel containers:	Mail Handler
2.	Manage empty containers/mail transport equipment (MTE):	Mail Handler
3.	Unload containers onto induction belt utilizing powered container unloaders, cull out NMOs:	Mail Handler
4.	*FnF exception re-handling station, to include facing mail, cull out NMOs, trash, and/or damaged parcels, manage containers used for culled mail volumes:	Mail Handler
5.	RELA exception re-handling station (without keying), to include applying pre-printed ID tag sticker to parcels, cull out NMOs, trash, and/or damaged parcels, manage containers used for culled mail volumes:	Mail Handler
6.	RELA exception re-handling station (with keying), to include presenting bar code to be scanned, applying pre-printed ID tag sticker to parcels, cull out NMOs, trash, and/or damaged parcels, manage containers used for culled mail volumes:	Clerk
7.	Build and stage MTE for sortation:	Mail Handler
8.	Monitor and sweep full containers:	Mail Handler
9.	Stage swept containers in staging lanes for dispatch:	Mail Handler

*Clerk craft employees assigned to the RELA exception re-handling station (with keying) (Item 6) will do so before rotation to other duties. Clerk craft employees who rotate to another work assignment will perform duties associated with Item 4 above on the MaRS. Clerk craft employees assigned to perform these duties in connection with this rotation will be in addition to the minimum number of Mail Handler personnel normally needed to staff this function.

The actual number of employees required to perform the duties associated with the MaRS will be determined based on local configuration and operational needs. Where the MaRS is already operational, assignment of the appropriate craft in accordance with this determination will be made as expeditiously as possible but not later than 90 days from receipt of this letter.

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

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at extension 215-432-0613.

Sincerely,

Michael Faber
Director
Contract Administration (APWU)