

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 7

April 27, 2005

TO ALL LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

As an on-going process in the General Chairman's office, we send out Circular Letters as circumstances dictate in regard to issues that are of importance to all of our Membership. We are requesting that you read these documents at your Union Meetings for the Membership's benefit and also place them on bulletin boards for those Members who cannot attend the Union Meeting. Incorporated below are issues of importance for our Membership.

Enhanced Manpower Utilization:

In accordance with Article VII of the August 20, 2002 National Agreement, the carrier has given notice of it's intent to implement the provisions of the agreed upon interpretation on May 1, 2005. Please advise your membership. The interpretation was attached to Circular Letter No. 6, dated April 11, 2005.

Vacation Pay Calculation 2005:

This office has received inquiries regarding the amount and calculation of vacation pay for locomotive engineers for 2005. The carrier has recently recalculated and updated the vacation figures. To verify vacation pay, locomotive engineers may utilize the following:

To the taxable earnings amount on 2004 form W-2 (including 401K), add Health and Welfare deductions for 2004. (January thru June - \$79.74; July thru December - \$95.68)

Subtract from the above total the amount of Back Pay received in 2004. (Code Z1)

Add to the above total the deduction made for Health and Welfare for 2003. (Code #z)

Dividing the final number by 52 should yield the weekly vacation rate for 2005.

FRA Safety Advisory:

The FRA has issued a safety advisory concerning possible failure of main reservoir air tanks on General Electric manufacture locomotives. The advisory warns of "possible catastrophic failure" (read "blow-out). The attached advisory gives a description of the occurrences and the identifying characteristics of the flawed tanks. No injuries have been reported, but employees should be aware of the possible hazard.

ES **Extended Haul Trains:**

Attached is a list of extended haul trains identified by the Union Pacific Railroad. Extended haul trains may be operated up to 1,500 miles between brake tests. Additional requirements for extended haul trains are contained in 49CFR, Part 232.213 (attached). These include an inspection by "an inspector designated under 215.11". A conductor is not an inspector under 215.11. Additional requirements are limit of one pick-up and one set-out enroute, and inspections of inbound trains or cars set-out enroute. Please review the attached material for information about extended haul trains operating within your areas.

ES **Authorized Mileage Rate:**

Attached is a letter from the International office regarding the reimbursement rate for private automobile use. Effective May 1, 2005, the automobile rate will be increased to 40.5 cents per mile.

ES **Off Track Vehicle Benefits:**

Attached is a synopsis of the benefit provisions of the Off-Track Vehicle Accident Benefits contained in various National Agreements. Off-track vehicles include vehicles owned, chartered, leased, rented, or contracted by the carrier for the purpose of transporting crew members and employees. The synopsis is a quick reference for benefits should an accident occur.

Trusting this information will aid you in keeping our Membership informed of issues confronting us and with best personal wishes, I remain

Fraternal ly yours,



Michael J. Reedy
General Chairman, G. C. A.

MJR: j g

cc: Paul Thompson, President - UTU
Rick Marceau, Assistant President - UTU
Dan Johnson, III - General Secretary/Treasurer - UTU

Attachments