ARTICLE 38 - SICK LEAVE

Section 98.

A. Full-time employees covered by this Agreement who, in their first anniversary year, work two thousand (2,000) hours or more (including vacation and holiday) and who have been continuously employed by their Employer for a period of one (1) year, shall be credited with forty-eight (48) hours of sick leave pay. Employees who in their first anniversary year work one thousand two hundred and forty-eight (1,248) hours or more (but less than two thousand (2,000) hours) and who have been continuously employed by their Employer for a period of one (1) year, shall be credited with hours of sick leave with pay on the basis of the total hours worked in their anniversary year divided by two thousand eighty (2,080) hours times forty-eight (48) hours. It is understood that employees shall not be credited with more than forty-eight (48) hours of sick leave credit per anniversary year. Hours worked includes vacation hours.

B. Unused sick leave shall be cumulative, and after the first year of continuous employment, full-time employees shall accumulate unused sick leave at the rate of four (4) hours for each month of continuous employment in which they work one hundred sixty (160) hours in a four (4) week month and two hundred (200) hours in a five (5) week month. Employees who work at least one hundred four (104) hours (but less than one hundred sixty (160) hours in a four [4] week month and less than two hundred (200) hours in a five (5) week month) shall accumulate unused sick leave for each month of continuous employment on the basis of total hours worked during the preceding month divided by one hundred sixty (160) hours in a four (4) week month and two hundred (200) hours in a five (5) week month times four (4). Said monthly credit shall not exceed four (4) hours for each month. Unused sick leave shall not exceed a maximum accumulation of six hundred (600) hours. Hours worked includes vacation hours.

A doctor's certificate or other authoritative verification of illness may be required by the Employer. Said sick leave is to commence with the second full work days' absence for sickness or non-occupational injury, and on the first work days' absence if the employee is hospitalized, undergoes outpatient surgery, or has accumulated in excess of one hundred ninety-two (192) hours. The waiting period provided herein shall apply for each illness or non-occupational injury. Any employees ineligible for first day sick pay under this provision shall be permitted to use up to five (5) days per year of vacation accrued pursuant to Section 47 or unused personal holidays as payment for such employee's first day sick time at the employee’s election. Notwithstanding other
requirements to use personal holidays or unused and accrued vacation, there shall be no management discretion to deny pay for such absence, except that a doctor's certificate or other authoritative verification of illness may be required by the Employer. In order to use personal holidays and/or vacation pay for a sick absence, the employee must provide at least two (2) hours’ notice prior to the start of such employee’s scheduled shift.

C. For the purpose of this Article one (1) day of pay shall mean eight (8) hours of pay at the employee's regular classification rate for those days which the employee would have worked had the disability not occurred, calculated at straight-time. No employee shall receive pay, under any combination of sick leave and Worker's Compensation or Weekly Indemnity which exceeds the lesser of his regular pay or eight (8) hours per day or forty (40) hours per week at his straight-time hourly rate of pay. The waiting period herein provided before sick pay commences, shall apply for each illness or injury in case the sick benefit allowance has not been used up in previous illnesses.

D. Sick leave accrued shall be paid to part-time employees based on hours lost, less waiting days (as set forth in paragraph C) from the most recent work schedule in effect when the absence commenced.

E. Sick leave benefits are not convertible to cash.

Section 99. Employees hired on or after March 6, 2005. Full-Time employees covered by this Agreement hired after March 6, 2005, who, in their first anniversary year, worked two thousand (2,000) hours or more and who have been continuously employed by their employer for a period of one (1) year, shall be credited with twenty-four (24) hours of sick leave pay. Employees (excluding part-time courtesy clerks) who in their first anniversary year work one thousand two hundred and forty-eight (1,248) hours or more (but less than two thousand [2,000] hours) and who have been continuously employed by their employer for a period of one (1) year, shall be credited with hours of sick leave with pay on the basis of the total hours worked (including vacation hours) in their anniversary year divided by two thousand eighty (2,080) hours times twenty-four (24) hours. It is understood that employees shall not be credited with more than twenty-four (24) hours of sick leave credit per anniversary year.

For Employees hired after March 6, 2005, unused sick leave shall be cumulative, and after the first (1st) year of continuous employment, full-time employees shall accumulate unused sick leave at the rate of two (2) hours for each month of continuous employment in which they work one hundred sixty (160) hours in a four (4) week month and two hundred (200) hours in a five (5) week month. Employees who work at least ninety-six (96) hours (but less than one hundred sixty (160) hours) in a four (4) week month and one hundred twenty (120) hours (but less than two hundred (200) hours) in a five (5) week month shall accumulate unused sick leave for each month of continuous employment on the
basis of total hours worked during the preceding month divided by one hundred sixty (160) hours in a four (4) week month and two hundred (200) hours in a five (5) week month times two (2). Said monthly credit shall not exceed two (2) hours for each month. Unused sick leave shall not exceed a maximum accumulation of two hundred and forty (240) hours.

A doctor’s certificate or other authoritative verification of illness may be required by the Employer. Said sick leave is to commence on the third full workday’s absence for sickness or non-occupational injury, on the first workday’s absence if the employee is hospitalized, undergoes outpatient surgery, or has accumulated in excess of one hundred and ninety-two (192) hours, and on the second workday’s absence if the employee has accumulated in excess of ninety-six (96) hours but less than one hundred ninety-two (192) hours. The waiting period provided herein shall apply for each illness or non-occupational injury. Any employees ineligible for first day sick pay under this provision shall be permitted to use up to five (5) days per year of vacation accrued pursuant to Section 47 or unused personal holidays as payment for such employee’s first day sick time at the employee’s election. Notwithstanding other requirements to use personal holidays or unused and accrued vacation, there shall be no management discretion to deny pay for such absence, except that a doctor’s certificate or other authoritative verification of illness may be required by the Employer. In order to use personal holidays and/or vacation pay for a sick absence, the employee must provide at least two (2) hours’ notice prior to the start of such employee’s scheduled shift.

Sick leave benefits are not convertible to cash.