

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of MARY C. ZAJAC and U.S. POSTAL SERVICE,
PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER, Brooklyn, NY

*Docket No. 01-1119; Submitted on the Record;
Issued January 3, 2002*

DECISION and ORDER

Before DAVID S. GERSON, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS,
BRADLEY T. KNOTT

The issue is whether appellant has established additional injuries causally related to her federal employment.

On December 1, 1998 appellant filed a claim alleging that she sustained an injury as a result of the repetitive actions of her position as a flat letter sorter. The record indicates that appellant had filed a prior claim in September 1997 for injury due to repetitive work activity.¹

By decision dated March 4, 1999, the Office denied the claim. In decisions dated July 8 and December 14, 1999, the Office denied modification.

In a decision dated January 4, 2001, the Office vacated the December 14, 1999 decision and accepted the claim for bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome and authorized bilateral release surgery.

The Board finds that appellant has not established any additional injuries as causally related to her federal employment.

An employee seeking benefits under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act² has the burden of establishing the essential elements of his or her claim, including that any disability or specific condition for which compensation is claimed is causally related to the employment injury.³

¹ Office of Workers' Compensation Programs File No. 020732951. This claim was accepted for bilateral wrist tendinitis. The record indicates that appellant accepted a limited-duty position in July 1998.

² 5 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8193.

³ *Kathryn Haggerty*, 45 ECAB 383 (1994); *Elaine Pendleton*, 40 ECAB 1143 (1989).

On appeal, appellant states that the Office failed to accept all the injuries sustained by appellant, without clearly identifying the specific conditions that the Office failed to accept. A review of the medical evidence does not reveal a reasoned medical opinion on causal relationship establishing additional employment-related conditions. In a report dated May 20, 1999, for example, Dr. Laxmi Diwan, an orthopedic surgeon, diagnoses both carpal tunnel syndrome and cervical spondylosis. He opines that appellant's symptoms are produced by appellant's repetitive motions in stamping and turning, without discussing the specific condition of cervical spondylosis and its relationship to employment. In order to accept conditions other than the carpal tunnel syndrome and wrist tendinitis, there must be a reasoned medical opinion on causal relationship between the specific diagnosed condition and appellant's federal employment. The Board does not find sufficient evidence to require the Office to accept additional conditions beyond those accepted in this case.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated January 4, 2001 is affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC
January 3, 2002

David S. Gerson
Member

Willie T.C. Thomas
Member

Bradley T. Knott
Alternate Member