

under Public Law 89-456 shall be filed with the National Mediation Board at the time it is executed by the parties. A copy of such agreement shall be filed by the parties with the Administrative Officer of the National Railroad Adjustment Board, Chicago, Ill.

(c) *Disposition of records.* Since the provisions of section 2(a) of Public Law 89-456 apply also to the awards of PL Boards created under this Act, two copies of all awards made by the PL Boards, together with the record of proceedings upon which such awards are based, shall be forwarded by the neutrals who are members of such Boards, or by the parties in case of disposition of disputes by PL Boards without participation of neutrals, to the Administrative Officer of the National Railroad Adjustment Board, Chicago, Ill., for filing, safekeeping, and handling under the provisions of section 2(q), as may be required.

PART 1208—AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Sec.

1208.1 Purpose.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 45 U.S.C. 151-163.

SOURCE: 39 FR 1751, Jan. 14, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1208.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to set forth the basic policies of the National Mediation Board and the National Railroad Adjustment Board in regard to the availability and disclosure of information in the possession of the NMB and the NRAB.

§ 1208.2 Production or disclosure of material or information.

(a) *Requests for identifiable records and copies.* (1) All requests for National Mediation Board records shall be filed in writing by mailing, faxing, or delivering the request to the Chief of Staff,

National Mediation Board, Washington, DC 20572.

(2) The request shall reasonably describe the records being sought in a manner which permits identification and location of the records.

(i) If the description is insufficient to locate the records, the National Mediation Board will so notify the person making the request and indicate the additional information needed to identify the records requested.

(ii) Every reasonable effort shall be made by the Board to assist in the identification and location of the records sought.

(3) Upon receipt of a request for the records the Chief of Staff shall maintain records in reference thereto which shall include the date and time received, the name and address of the requester, the nature of the records requested, the action taken, the date the determination letter is sent to the requester, appeals and action thereon, the date any records are subsequently furnished the number of staff hours and grade levels of persons who spent time responding to the request, and the payment requested and received.

(4) All time limitations established pursuant to this section with respect to processing initial requests and appeals shall commence at the time a written request for records is received at the Board's offices in Washington, DC.

(i) An oral request for records shall not begin any time requirement.

(ii) [Reserved]

(b) *Processing the initial request—(1) Time limitations.* Within 20 working days (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and working holidays) after a request for records is received, the Chief of Staff shall determine and inform the requester by letter whether or the extent to which the request will be complied with, unless an extension is taken under paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(2) Such reply letter shall include:

(i) A reference to the specific exemption or exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) authorizing the withholding of the record, a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.