

To all potential Communicating For Safety participants:

The annual Communicating For Safety conference for the purpose of advancing aviation safety is scheduled for March 21 - 23, 2010. Article 29 of the 2007 Collective Bargaining Agreement (Engineers and Architects) and Article 29 of the 2009 Collective Bargaining Agreement between NATCA and the FAA (Air Traffic Controllers, Traffic Management Coordinators/Specialists, and U.S. NOTAM Office) address excused absences and the ability of bargaining unit employees represented by NATCA to attend the conference on duty time. The Parties negotiated a specific process through which individual employees may obtain a release to participate in the conference on duty time. This includes contact with the Agency on the local level as well as the national level.

Article 29 of the respective Collective Bargaining Agreements requires the following actions:

1. All conference participants must make a request for a release on duty time to the Agency. This request must be made in a timely fashion in order to provide the Agency with a reasonable amount of time to determine whether or not the request should be granted. It is recommended that individuals provide their local management with a copy of the attached form to allow for all necessary coordination. Please make this request as soon as practicable to allow so that any issues may be addressed before NATCA makes a request at the national level.
2. Because the Collective Bargaining Agreement requires NATCA to make a national-level request for all participants, please provide Kelly Richardson (krichardson@natcadc.org) with an update on the status of your request as soon as possible. This request must be provided to him no later than January 15th, 2010.
3. In accordance with Article 29, NATCA will make a national-level request for excused absence at least forty-five days prior to the conference. As such, NATCA's final request must be made by February 5th, 2010.
4. If you run into any issues in obtaining a release, please contact Kelly Richardson immediately. The Labor Relations Department will work with the Agency to allow for participation.