



Canon GPS mobile phone tracking policy: Report Back from FWC Conference held on 11th July 2017

Introduction

Members would be aware that the ASU made a fresh application to the FWC regarding Canon's proposed policy on the GPS tracking of technician's mobile phones. The ASU and its members are very uncomfortable about this proposed policy.

A FWC conference was held in Melbourne before Commissioner Gregory. Michael Rizzo, National Industrial Officer, represented the ASU. The point of a conciliation conference is to try and find a resolution to the dispute between the parties with the assistance of the Commission. If no resolution is found, then it may go to arbitration.

The FWC Conference

At the conference Canon explained its reasons for wanting to introduce the policy including: better customer service; OHS; better job scheduling. The ASU said its concerns were, unnecessary invasion of privacy; the use of the policy for disciplinary reasons; the fact that Canon could change the policy at its discretion; and the unnecessary, inefficient and cumbersome direction from the company, that if one does not give consent to be tracked, then the employee must advise Canon of his location every 15-30 minutes, making a mockery of the need for express consent.

Michael Rizzo also informed the Commissioner that 90 of the 110 Technicians signed the grievance/dispute notice with Canon, which shows the depth of feeling members/employees have on this issue.

Commissioner Gregory discussed the policy with the parties, asked for details on how it would work and then issued the attached Recommendation to the parties.

The Recommendation makes 3 points:

1. That further direct discussions occur between the ASU and Canon. To this extent, Michael Rizzo of the ASU has arranged to meet Glen Trestrail of Canon in Sydney on the 26th July.
2. That discussions hopefully arrives at another draft of the GPS Policy that the ASU can then consider in detail in conjunction with its members.
3. That a Report Back/Conference is scheduled for the 9th August 2017 in Melbourne before Commissioner Gregory again (see attached Notice of Listing from the FWC).

Members will be informed of any major developments.

More information

For more information, please get in touch with the relevant contact below.

Branch	Contact	Email
National Office	Michael Rizzo	mrizzo@asu.asn.au
NSW/ACT	Jocelyn Gammie	jocelyn@asu.org.au
VIC/TAS	Jonathan Smallbone	jsmallbone@asuvictas.com.au
QLD	Tammy Gaze	Tammy.gaze@theservicesunion.com.au
WA	Jill Hugo	jill.hugo@asuwa.org

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