

78. Technological Change

(a) Definition of Technological Change

As used herein, the term “technological change” means the introduction of any new or modified devices or equipment for the purpose of performing any work by employees covered by this Agreement, which directly results in a change in the number of employees employed under this Agreement or which results, with respect to the performance of work in any classification hereunder, in materially changing the job description thereof, if any, provided herein, or in requiring substantially different training, qualification or skills therefor.

(b) Producer’s Right to Institute Technological Changes

The parties hereto agree that Producer has the unrestricted right to make technological changes and that such right shall not be subject to grievance or arbitration or any other proceeding. However, Producer’s right to make technological changes shall be subject to the provisions of subparagraphs (c), (d), (e) and (f) of this Paragraph 78.

(c) Notice of Technological Change

If Producer proposes to make any technological change, it shall give written notice thereof to Union and to any other Union affected by such change. Such notice shall be given as soon as possible but not less than thirty (30) days prior to instituting such change.

(d) Retraining

If any technological change permanently displaces any person in the performance of his job classification for Producer:

(1) Such person, as of the date of such displacement, is entitled under the provisions of Paragraph 74 hereof (“Severance Pay”) to be credited with at least one (1) “qualified year” arising out of his employment by Producer; and

(2) Such person is qualified to be retrained for an available job resulting from such technological change or for other jobs which Producer has available within Union’s jurisdiction, or within the jurisdiction of any other Union which is a party to the Memorandum of Agreement of 1965, or for any other available job opportunity with Producer, then:

Producer agrees to endeavor to retrain such person for such available job at Producer’s expense in which event the provisions of subparagraph (e) below shall not apply. Union agrees, notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, to permit such retraining and to cooperate with Producer with respect thereto. Union further agrees, for the benefit of other Union parties to the Memorandum of Agreement of 1965, in consideration of the inclusion in their respective contracts of a clause identical with this Paragraph 78, to permit retraining within this Union’s jurisdiction of employees displaced from jobs within the jurisdiction of such other Union parties; provided, however, that such other Union parties’ displaced employees are qualified for retraining in this Union’s jurisdiction and provided, further, that such permission shall be on condition (applicable to this Paragraph 78 only) that this Union has been notified of such available job and within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) is unable to furnish competent available persons on the Industry Experience Roster to fill such available job. Any such persons offered retraining pursuant to this subparagraph (d) shall, of course, have the right to reject the same, but any such rejection shall discharge Producer’s obligations under this Paragraph 78 unless the job opportunity for which Producer offered retraining was at a lower rate of pay than the job from which employee is being displaced.

(e) Displacement Pay

If any such technological change permanently displaces any person in the performance of his job classification for Producer, and

(1) Such person, as of the date of such displacement, is entitled under the provisions of Paragraph 74 hereof (“Severance Pay”) to be credited with at least one (1) “qualified year” arising out of his employment by Producer; and

(2) Such person makes written application to Producer within thirty (30) days after such displacement to receive displacement pay (as herein defined), then:

Producer shall pay him the amount of compensation set forth in the following table and, upon such payment, he shall be removed from the Industry Experience Roster, so far as such Producer is concerned, and from the Studio Seniority Roster, if any.

Qualified Years as of the Date of Displacement	Number of Weeks of Displacement Pay Payable
1 or 2	1
3	1½
4	2
5 to 9 (inclusive)	3
10 or 11	5
12 or 13	6
14 or 15	7
16 or 17	8
18 or 19	9
20 or more	10

The payment of displacement pay, as above provided, shall be separate and apart from any obligation Producer may have to pay severance pay to such displaced person under the provisions of Paragraph 74 hereof (“Severance Pay”). Notwithstanding anything in this subparagraph (e) to the contrary, no such displaced person shall be eligible for displacement pay if:

(i) Producer offers the training referred to in subparagraph (d) above and such person rejects it, unless the training rejected is for a job at a lower rate of pay; or

(ii) Such person is offered a job by Producer at an equal or better rate of pay; or

(iii) Such person accepts any job with Producer even though such job is at a lower rate of pay.

(f) Negotiation of New Rates

If any technological change results, with respect to the performance of work in any classification hereunder, in materially changing the job description thereof, if any, provided herein, or in requiring substantially different training, qualification or skills therefor, and either the Producer or the Union desires to negotiate a new rate or classification for such job, the party desiring such negotiation shall give written notice to such effect to the other party within thirty (30) days following the date upon which any such job is so affected. Upon receipt of such notice, the parties shall immediately endeavor to agree upon the proper classification or rate for such job. Any such agreement shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. If no such agreement is reached within thirty (30) days after such written notice is received, either party to this Agreement may, within thirty (30) days thereafter, invoke Step Two of the grievance procedure provided in Article 7 hereof or, if they mutually agree to waive Step Two, may proceed immediately to Step Three of the grievance procedure so provided. The rate or classification determined by such agreement or by any arbitration pursuant to Step Three of the grievance procedure shall be effective retroactive to the date upon which any employee commenced performing services in any such affected job, but no reduction in rate shall be retroactive.

(g) Experimental Technological Changes

The provisions of subparagraphs (c), (d), (e) and (f) above shall not apply to any experimental technological change except that if any such change becomes other than experimental and any increased rate for a job affected thereby is negotiated pursuant to subparagraph (f) above, such increased rate shall be retroactive to the date upon which an employee commenced performing the changed services in such affected job. As used herein, the term “experimental technological change” shall mean a technological change which is instituted by Producer for the primary purpose of determining, under operating conditions, the feasibility and adequacy of performance of any new or modified device or equipment; provided, however, that the change shall no longer be considered experimental after the date upon which its operation by persons under the jurisdiction of this Agreement is no longer subject to supervision by the technicians or engineers concerned with its development. Nothing in this subparagraph (g) shall be construed to deprive Union of jurisdiction over any job over which it otherwise has jurisdiction hereunder.

(h) Disputes Concerning Retraining, Displacement Pay and Negotiation of New Rates

If a dispute arises between Union and Producer with respect to any determination required by subparagraphs (d), (e), (f) or (g) of this Paragraph 78, such dispute shall be subject to the grievance procedure set forth in Article 7 of this Agreement, but any award arising out of such grievance or arbitration shall be limited to the enforcement of the provisions of said subparagraphs hereof and shall not affect Producer's right to make technological changes.