



March 31, 2023

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Mr. Ivan D. Butts
President
National Association of Postal
Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Certified Mailing Tracking Number:
7008 1140 0004 6691 9262

Dear Ivan:

The Postal Service is proposing revisions to Handbook PO-603 *Rural Carrier Duties and Responsibilities*, Section 171.7 *Vehicle Doors* and Handbook M-41 *City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities*, Section 812.31 *Safety Practices*.

Revisions are being made to reflect designs and specifications of the Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDV's). As noted in the enclosed February 24, 2021, correspondence, the NGDV, along with other commercial vehicles, will replace and expand the current delivery fleet of Long Life Vehicle (LLV).

The NGDV has been engineered and designed with specific safety and ergonomic features which require the driver's door to be in the closed position when in operation.

The following documents are enclosed:

- A copy of M-41 Section 812.31 *Safety Practices* with track changes
- A copy of M-41 Section 812.31 *Safety Practices* with track changes accepted
- A copy of PO-603 Section 171.7 *Vehicle Doors* with track changes
- A copy of PO-603 Section 171.7 *Vehicle Doors* with track changes accepted
- February 24, 2021, original correspondence

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Lloyd".

James Lloyd
Director
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosures

PO-603 – Rural Carrier Duties and Responsibilities

171 Traffic Safety and Accident Reporting

171.7 Vehicle Doors

When traveling to and from the route and entering or crossing intersecting roadways, all vehicle doors must be closed. When operating a RHD vehicle on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or less between delivery stops, the sliding door on the driver's side may be left open, unless the specific vehicle is not designed to operate with the driver's door open.

M-41 – City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities

812 Safety Practices

812.31 When traveling to and from the route, when moving between park and relay points, and when entering or crossing intersecting roadways, all external vehicle doors must be closed. When operating a vehicle with sliding driver's cab doors on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or less at speeds not exceeding 15 MPH between delivery stops, the right-hand sliding cab door may be left open unless the specific vehicle is not designed to operate with the driver's door open.

PO-603 – Rural Carrier Duties and Responsibilities

171 Traffic Safety and Accident Reporting

171.7 Vehicle Doors

When traveling to and from the route and entering or crossing intersecting roadways, all vehicle doors must be closed. When operating a RHD vehicle on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or less between delivery stops, the sliding door on the driver's side may be left open, [unless the specific vehicle is not designed to operate with the driver's door open.](#)

M-41 – City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities

812 Safety Practices

812.31 When traveling to and from the route, when moving between park and relay points, and when entering or crossing intersecting roadways, all external vehicle doors must be closed. When operating a vehicle with sliding driver's cab doors on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or less at speeds not exceeding 15 MPH between delivery stops, the right-hand sliding cab door may be left open [unless the specific vehicle is not designed to operate with the driver's door open.](#)

LABOR RELATIONS



February 24, 2021

Mr. Brian J. Wagner
President
National Association of Postal
Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Faxed

Dear Mr. Wagner:

As a matter of general interest, the Postal Service has announced the award of a 10-year contract to Oshkosh Defense to manufacture the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) which will be U.S.-built delivery vehicles.

Oshkosh Defense, based in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, will finalize the production design of the next-NGDV, for the right-hand-drive vehicle for mail and package delivery, and will assemble 50,000 to 165,000 of them over 10 years.

The NGDV, along with other commercial vehicles, will replace and expand the current delivery fleet of Long Life Vehicles (LLV), which includes many vehicles that have been in service for 30 years. The first NGDVs are estimated to appear on carrier routes in 2023.

Enclosed is a copy of the USPS LINK Extra announcing the award.

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David E. Mills".

David E Mills
Manager
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosure