



City Delivery updates



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In this month's article, I will be discussing a few recent updates, a pilot test involving the Mobile Delivery Device-Technical Refresh (MDD-TR) and a proposed change to the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV).

MDD-TR Software update

In a letter dated Dec. 8, NALC was notified that the Postal Service has updated the Mobile Delivery Device-Technical Refresh (MDD-TR) regarding the hold mail process. With this update, carriers will receive an alert on hold mail request while in the office and on the street through the MDD-TR.

As explained by the Postal Service, the carrier will receive reminders through the MDD-TR on upcoming hold mail ending dates while in office and will provide feedback when utilizing the load truck feature that a parcel is part of an active hold mail request. While on the street, carriers will also receive alert notifications through the MDD-TR when breaking the geofence of a delivery address containing an active hold mail request.

Section 241.312 of the *Handbook M-41, City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities*, states:

PS Form 3982 may be used for entering special instructions such as building vacant, temporary absence-hold, etc. Enter temporary changes of address in the same way, but include inclusive dates. Hold mail held at carrier case should be verified once each week to insure that no mail designated by mailer is kept beyond its retention period. Such mail shall be endorsed, Temporarily Away.

Although this update may provide carriers with an alert while in the office of hold mail end dates, it does not change the right of a carrier to check on their hold mail as indicated in Chapter 2 of the *M-41*.

If local management denies you to check your hold mail, request to speak with your shop steward or branch officer and, if appropriate, request that a grievance be filed on your behalf.

Parcel Delivery Photo Verification—pilot test

In a letter dated Feb. 3, NALC was notified that the Postal Service will be testing a new feature, MDD-TR Parcel Delivery Photo Verification, on the Mobile Delivery Devices (MDD and MDD-TR). The pilot test allows carriers to take photos while delivering parcels as a method for proof of delivery.

This pilot began in February and is being tested across 103 city routes in the following areas and districts: West-

pac, AZ-NM, Atlantic, New York 1, Central, MN-ND and Southern, Texas 1.

This update is in conflict with postal handbooks and manuals, specifically, *Handbook M-39, Management of Delivery Services* and *Handbook M-41*.

Non-DOIS offices

In February, NALC was notified that the Postal Service will be adding 465 Non-Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS) offices into DOIS. USPS indicates that these additions will assist offices in maintaining historical data through technology and make assignments easier to perform and track.

USPS did not provide when these additions will take place but said that it will be conducting a multi-phased approach until all offices have been converted to DOIS.

As agreed between NALC and USPS in an Interpretive step settlement (M-01664), DOIS is a management tool for estimating a carrier's daily workload. However, projections from this tool are not the sole determinant of a carrier's leaving or return time, or daily workload. Additionally, management is responsible for accurately recording volume and other data in DOIS.

Even with this new addition in these offices, the reporting requirements by carriers, as outlined in *Handbook M-39* and *Handbook M-41*, have not changed.

Next Generation Delivery Vehicle

In January, NALC was invited to attend a demonstration of a new driver's side window slider to the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV), as seen in the photo above. This mock-up window is a proposed change by Oshkosh Defense to the driver's side window, as reports from carriers out in the field indicated that excessive dust and dirt were entering the NGDV on routes with gravel and/or dirt roads.

NALC attended the demonstration and tested the window slider. USPS was provided with our thoughts and concerns with the proposed driver's window slider. As mentioned to USPS, the proposed slider window is too small and may present a problem to carriers delivering curbside mail or servicing CBU's. Additionally, the locking mechanism added to this made it difficult to open and close the window, this could result in the use of the glass, rather than the locking mechanism, to open and close the window.

As of the writing of this article, USPS and Oshkosh will not move forward with the proposed mock-up window slider.

I will continue to share updates to pilot tests and updates with the membership as they progress. Be sure to read my article each month and visit nalc.org for more information.