

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE**

August 24, 2001

MANAGERS, DELIVERY PROGRAMS SUPPORT (AREA)  
MANAGERS, OPERATIONS PROGRAMS SUPPORT (DISTRICT)

Effective immediately, the number of USPS-owned vehicles formally assigned to rural routes, by district, may not be reduced. The total number of USPS-owned vehicles formally assigned to rural routes in any given district as of AP 13, FY 2001, should remain allocated for rural delivery routes.

The intent of this instruction is to maintain the present level of USPS vehicle support on rural routes. It does not affect district authority to reassign USPS vehicles within the rural function, in accordance with the 1988 Memorandum of Understanding between the USPS and National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA). That is, a USPS-provided vehicle may be removed from an encumbered regular rural route with the written consent of the assigned carrier and manager; and from any vacant or auxiliary rural route at management's option. However, in accordance with this instruction, the removed vehicle is to be redeployed on another operationally-advantageous rural route, rather than being reassigned to another activity.

This instruction also does not affect our policy of rotating USPS vehicles throughout the delivery fleet, at the sole discretion of the manager, vehicle maintenance. Therefore, the particular vehicles provided to rural routes will, from time to time, vary. However, the district's overall level of USPS provided vehicles on rural routes should remain.

Per July 18, 2001, telecom information to area managers, Delivery Programs Support, additional placements of existing USPS-owned carrier route vehicles (e.g., long-life vehicles, flex fuel vehicles, and carrier route Windstars, excluding their 3 percent maintenance reserves) on rural routes may occur under the following two conditions only:

1. All quarter-ton Jeeps must be eliminated within the area; and
2. All delivery leases (except for Christmas or other seasonal needs of six months or less) must be eliminated within the district

Generally, this opportunity may occur if and as city delivery requirements are reduced and/or utilization is improved, thereby eliminating leased vehicle needs and freeing up USPS vehicles for rural route assignments.

Please ensure that these instructions are properly applied throughout your delivery units. If you have any questions regarding vehicle allocations or maintenance, please contact Jackie Estes, Acting Manager, Delivery Vehicle Operations, at (202) 268-2861. Questions regarding rural route operations can be directed to Bob West at (202) 268 - 3551.

(Signed)  
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cc: John Rapp  
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