

ARTICLE	19
SECTION	M-52
SUBJECT	SEAT BELTS

UNIFORM SEATBELT, CLOSED DOOR, AND PASSENGER POLICY

M 00547

The following policy on seatbelt use, closed vehicle doors, and authorized passengers was issued on June 11, 1984. This policy is being published in a Postal Bulletin notice due to the number of recent inquiries on this subject, indicating that some offices may not have received the policy revision in June.

The previously published policy in Postal Bulletin 21440 (1-12-84) is being revised to provide an exception to that portion dealing with closed vehicle doors. The following is the present policy on seatbelt use, closed vehicle doors and authorized passengers:

Seatbelts must be worn at all times the vehicle is in motion. When traveling to and from the route, when moving between park and relay points, and when entering or crossing intersecting roadways, all vehicle doors must be closed. When operating a vehicle 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 door on the driver's side may be left open. Rural carriers will follow the policy outlined in Handbook M-37, Rural Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities, Section 161.

Only authorized passengers are permitted to ride in postal-owned, GSA-owned, rental, or contract vehicles (including employees' privately owned vehicles when used in postal operations). All passengers must use seatbelts. Where conventional passenger seats have not been provided in the vehicle, an approved auxiliary seat, facing forward, and equipped with a backrest and seatbelts must be used. Sitting in other than an approved seat or standing in a postal vehicle while such vehicle is in motion is prohibited.

Pen and ink changes should be made accordingly in handbook EL-801, Supervisor's Safety Handbook, Appendix A, page 28; Handbook M-39, Management of Delivery Services, 231.2; Handbook M-41, City Delivery Carrier's Duties and Responsibilities, 812.3 and 812.7; Handbook M-52, Fleet Management, 215.271 and 215.273; and the Postal Operations Manual (POM), 723.2 and 723.43.

This uniform policy statement will be reflected in a future revision to handbook EL-801, Supervisor's Safety Handbook, while future revisions to the other documents will contain only a reference to the policy in the EL-801. -Delivery Services
Dept.