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TRAINING BULLETIN

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USPS Vehicle Identification

The Reorganization Act of 1970 was a significant piece of legislation that established the United States Postal Service (USPS) as an independent agency. This act, signed into law by President Nixon, abolished the Post Office Department and granted the USPS broad powers of operation, excluding it from most federal laws and regulations. One of the notable provisions of the act was the exemption from vehicle registration and procurement regulations, which is why mail trucks do not have license plates. Instead, USPS vehicles are identified by unique serial numbers, printed on the front and rear, which are used for tracking and managing the vehicles.

USPS vehicles are generally easy to recognize, but here's a breakdown of what to expect:

Traditional Delivery Trucks (“Long Life Vehicles”)

- White box-shaped body with distinctive red and blue stripes along the sides.
- Large USPS eagle logo displayed prominently.
- Right-hand drive (in many cases) to facilitate easier curbside delivery.

Next-Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDVs)

- May still showcase the official USPS color scheme (white with red and blue accents).
- USPS branding and eagle logo will be visible.

Marked Vans or Other Vehicles

- Some offices use vans or trucks with the USPS logo on the sides or doors.
- Colors and markings can vary, but branding is typically clear.

License Plates

- Some USPS fleet vehicles will have a federal license plate, but all will have a unique government identification/serial number (see photos).



Sources: www.Congress.gov / www.govfacts.org

Most USPS mail trucks are Grumman Long Life Vehicles (LLVs), which have been the backbone of the postal delivery fleet since the late 1980s. Manufactured by Grumman Aerospace Corporation between 1987 and 1994, these trucks were specifically designed for mail delivery. An interesting fact about the seven-digit number is that you can tell how old a truck is by its serial number. The first digit of a USPS truck's serial number reveals its age, with numbers 7 through 4 indicating production years from 1987 to 1994. As even the newest LLVs have been in service for over 30 years, USPS has begun phasing them out and replacing them with Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDVs) with improved efficiency, safety, and comfort. NGDVs are also exempt from needing license plates (see below).



In summary:

- **Federal exemption:** As a federal agency, the USPS is not subject to state-level vehicle registration and licensing laws.
- **Unique serial number:** The large numbers painted on the exterior of mail trucks, usually on the front and rear, serve as the vehicle's official identification and registration number.
- **Self-insured:** Because the USPS is a federal agency, it is self-insured and does not carry commercial insurance policies for its vehicles.
- **Exceptions for non-branded vehicles:** The USPS issues license plates for vehicles that are not clearly marked with postal branding, such as some staff cars.
- **Personally owned vehicles (POVs):** In rural areas, mail carriers may use their own personal vehicles for delivery. In these cases, the vehicles must be registered and display a standard state-issued license plate, like any other privately owned vehicle.