

UPDATE OF VA DIRECTIVE 7179, PREFERRED USE OF THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC SOURCING INITIATIVE FOR DOMESTIC DELIVERY SERVICES FOR EXPRESS AND GROUND SMALL PACKAGES

1. **PURPOSE:** This notice provides policy changes to Directive 7179, Mandatory Use of The Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative for Domestic Delivery Services for Express and Ground Small Packages, dated April 21, 2011. Changes below substitute a preference for use of the Best-in-Class (BIC), Department of Defense's United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), Next Generation Delivery Service (NGDS) multi-award contract for domestic ground and international delivery services for small package shipments. The policy statement below replaces the prior mandatory use requirement, as prescribed by the [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Memorandum M-17-29 \(whitehouse.gov\), dated July 27, 2017](#), as modified by [OMB Memorandum M-22-03 \(whitehouse.gov\)](#), dated December 2, 2021.
2. **POLICY:** While the update to the subject VA policy is in development, VA is governed by the overarching guidance in OMB Memoranda M-17-29 and M-22-03. These memoranda establish a strong preference for use of the consolidated BIC NGDS multiple award, indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity contracts, managed by the Department of Defense's USTRANSCOM for express, same day or 1-2 day delivery services.
 - a. VA will rely on these contracts for package delivery for shipments originating or terminating internationally or for shipments that require use of air transportation domestically. Shipments made overland or for short-haul distances, such as within a Veteran Integrated Services Network, may also rely on the NGDS vehicles, depending on market research.
 - b. As directed by OMB Memorandum 22-03, VA is obligated to consider decentralized contracts in lieu of BIC vehicles when market research indicates an opportunity for small business participation. This is especially true for requirements that may be governed by the mandatory VA Rule of Two for utilization of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and other Veteran-Owned Small Businesses ([38 U.S.C. § 8127\(d\)](#)).
 - c. Development of updates to VA Directive 7179 are underway to provide additional guidance on how to conduct market research to this end and for what requirements.
 - d. Information regarding the NGDS contracts and related information on package delivery services is available on VA's Office of Procurement, Acquisition and Logistics (OPAL), [Transportation and Relocation Services Division intranet website](#).

3. **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction (OALC) (003), Office of Procurement, Acquisition and Logistics, Logistics Support Service (003B7).
4. **RELATED DIRECTIVE:** VA Directive 7179, Mandatory use of the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative for Domestic Delivery Services for Express and Ground Small Package Shipments and Express Heavyweight Shipments, dated April 21, 2011.
5. **RESCISSION:** This notice will be rescinded and guidance incorporated into VA Directive 7179, no later than one year after the date of publication.

CERTIFIED BY:

**BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

/s/
Guy T. Kiyokawa
Assistant Secretary for
Enterprise Integration

/s/
Michael D. Parrish
Principal Executive Director, Office of
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