

1 Department of Transportation

2

3 Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to Standards for Mailbox

4 Installations and Supports

5

6 Rules as Adopted

7 8818.0100 DEFINITIONS.

8 Subpart 1. **Airspace.** "Airspace" means the space extending  
9 vertically upward from a particular surface on the earth.

10 Subp. 2. **Cross-sectional area.** "Cross-sectional area"  
11 means the area of the resultant shape defined by cutting through  
12 something at a right angle to its axis.

13 Subp. 3. **Encroach.** "Encroach" means to advance beyond the  
14 specified area or space.

15 Subp. 4. **Mailbox installation or installation.** "Mailbox  
16 installation" or "installation" means the entire mailbox  
17 structure including the support, mailbox, hardware, and  
18 attachments.

19 Subp. 5. **Mailbox support or support.** "Mailbox support" or  
20 "support" means the part of the mailbox installation that holds  
21 up the mailbox, excluding hardware and auxiliary attachments.

22 Subp. 6. **Neighborhood delivery and collection box units.**  
23 "Neighborhood delivery and collection box units" means a cluster  
24 of several individual locked mailboxes packaged as a single unit.

25 Subp. 7. **Pounds per foot.** "Pounds per foot" means the  
26 weight of a one-foot portion, measured vertically, of the  
27 mailbox support.

28 Subp. 8. **Usable roadway.** "Usable roadway" means the  
29 normally traveled vehicular lanes as well as the adjacent road  
30 surfaces that are used by motor vehicles, such as shoulders,  
31 turn lanes, and parking lanes.

32 8818.0200 PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

33 Subpart 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of parts 8818.0100 to  
34 8818.0300 is to provide for standards and permissible locations  
35 of mailbox installations and supports on streets or highways in

1 Minnesota so that potentially hazardous fixed roadside  
2 appurtenances are eliminated.

3 Subp. 2. Scope. Parts 8818.0100 to 8818.0300 apply only  
4 to installations on streets or highways that have a speed limit  
5 of 40 miles per hour or greater.

6 8818.0300 PROHIBITED MAILBOX STRUCTURES; EXCEPTIONS.

7 Subpart 1. Unlawful installations and supports. The  
8 following mailbox installations and supports are declared to be  
9 a public nuisance, a road hazard, and a danger to the health and  
10 safety of the traveling public if located along a street or  
11 highway having a speed limit of 40 miles per hour or greater:

12 A. an installation that contains more than one  
13 vertical support;

14 B. a single support containing more than two  
15 mailboxes;

16 C. a wooden support with a cross-sectional area  
17 greater than 16 square inches at any above-ground point along  
18 the support (for example, the maximum allowable square and round  
19 support dimensions are four inches by four inches and 4.5 inches  
20 in diameter, respectively), except that larger wooden supports  
21 are acceptable if, at a height four inches above the ground, the  
22 support cross-sectional area is altered in some fashion so as to  
23 reduce the cross-sectional area at that point to 16 square  
24 inches or less;

25 D. a metal support of a weight of four pounds per  
26 foot or more for any one foot of vertical measurement above  
27 ground (for example, a standard steel pipe of up to two inches  
28 inner diameter would be acceptable), except that larger metal  
29 supports are acceptable if, within the first three inches above  
30 ground the metal support is less than four pounds per foot (less  
31 than one pound for the three-inch length);

32 E. a mailbox that is not acceptable for delivery of  
33 mail by the United States Postal Service approved;

34 F. adjacent mailbox installations whose respective  
35 supports are spaced closer than 30 inches, as measured from

1 center of support to center of support;

2 G. neighborhood delivery and collection box units,  
3 whether or not United States Postal Service approved;

4 H. a support comprised of material other than solely  
5 wood or metal that either exceeds 16 square inches in total  
6 cross-sectional area at a height four inches above ground or is  
7 of a weight of four pounds per foot or more for any one foot of  
8 vertical measurement above ground, unless within the first three  
9 inches above ground the support is less than four pounds per  
10 foot (less than one pound over the three-inch distance).

11 Examples of such nonconforming supports could include supports  
12 such as filled milk cans, brick structures, plows, and  
13 concrete-filled pipe; and

14 I. an installation, whether a support or closed  
15 mailbox, that encroaches the usable roadway or its airspace.

16 Subp. 2. Exceptions. Notwithstanding subpart 1, mailbox  
17 installations that are documented to have passed an accredited  
18 crash test are acceptable. An accredited crash test is  
19 considered to be a test conducted in accordance with procedures  
20 described in the most recent National Cooperative Highway  
21 Research Program report, "Recommended Procedures for the Safety  
22 Performance Evaluation of Highway Appurtenances," published by  
23 the Transportation Research Board, National Academy of Sciences,  
24 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. This  
25 report and future revisions of this report are incorporated by  
26 reference. The report is not subject to frequent change and is  
27 available to the public at the State Law Library, Judicial  
28 Center, 25 Constitution Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, and  
29 through the Minitex interlibrary loan system.