

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Hand-held Cellphones are Dangerous... and Illegal

On Jan. 3, 2012, the Department of Transportation prohibited commercial motor vehicle operators with interstate authority from using hand-held mobile phones.

This restriction is designed to curb distractions for commercial truck and bus drivers: The odds of being involved in a safety-critical event are 23.2 times greater for CMV drivers who text while driving than for those who do not.

Banned Devices and Practices

The use of hand-held mobile phones is strictly prohibited. Making or receiving calls, texting and other functions are not allowed to be performed while operating a CMV.

Drivers may use their hand-held device when stationary, so long as they have moved to the side of or off the road or highway and can safely remain stationary.

Hands-free Devices

Drivers may continue to use hands-free devices, but only if they do not cause a distraction. Points to remember:

- It is illegal to dial calls, provided dialing requires the driver to push more than one button.
- In order to answer the call, the phone must be within the driver's reach and easily accessible.
- Citizens' Band (CB) radios, two-way radios and walkie-talkies are permitted.
- Drivers are allowed to use a hand-held mobile device in cases of emergency, so long as they are notifying law enforcement or other emergency services.
- Certain states do have outright bans on the use of mobile telephones; be aware of the laws in your area of operations.

Avoid Fines

Drivers who violate the restriction will face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense, and disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle for multiple offenses. Additionally, states will suspend a driver's commercial driver's license (CDL) after two or more serious traffic violations.