



Idealease Safety Bulletin

March 31, 2008

Brought to you by Idealsafe 847-304-3190 Website: www.idealease.com

Question of the Week?

Are my drivers allowed to talk on a cell phone when operating a commercial motor vehicle?

Answer: Laws restricting the use of a cell phone while operating motor vehicles are determined by the individual states and or municipalities. Cell phone laws continue to change by State and Municipalities. A jurisdiction-wide ban on driving while talking on a hand-held cellular phone is in place in 6 states (California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Utah, and Washington) and the District of Columbia. Utah has named the offense careless driving. Under the Utah law, no one commits an offense when speaking on a cell phone unless they are also committing some other moving violation other than speeding.

Localities are allowed to ban cell phone use in 6 states (Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, and Pennsylvania). Localities that have enacted restrictions on cell phone use include: Chicago, IL; Brookline, MA; Detroit, MI; Santa Fe, NM; Brooklyn, North Olmstead and Walton Hills, OH; and Conshohocken, Lebanon and West Conshohocken, PA.

Localities are prohibited from banning cell phone use in 8 states (Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah).

The use of all cellular phones while driving a school bus is prohibited in 15 states and the District of Columbia.

The use of cellular phones by teens in the graduated licensing system is restricted in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

To review cell phone laws by state go to: <http://www.iihs.org/laws/cellphonelaws.aspx>

Safe Driving Tips for Cell Phone Use

It's simple: don't use a cellular phone while driving. If a call is important enough, it deserves your full attention!

To make or receive calls:

- Pull over and stop;
- Allow a passenger to operate the phone;
- Use voice mail and respond to the call at a safer time; or
- Let someone else drive, freeing you up to make or receive calls.

Ultimately, you must decide when and how to use your cell phone safely and responsibly.

UPCOMING IDEALEASE/NPTC SAFETY SEMINARS

April 1 Grand Rapids, MI
Wieland Idealease
Contact: Lauri Sieracki
616-241-4656

April 2 Chicago, IL
Chicago Idealease
Contact: Paul Ams
708-496-7501

April 3 Peoria, IL
Centre State Idealease
Contact: Kelly Perkins
309-637-8483

April 8 Toronto, ON
Western Toronto Idealease
Contact: Joanne Hofinger
Phone (905) 671-7600 x 3311

April 8 Kamloops, BC
IRL Idealease
Contact: Alanna Wiens
Phone: (250) 374-7238

NEWS

Seat Belt Usage on the Rise! The number of professional truckers buckling up their seat belts jumped dramatically in 2007 to a record level. "Seat belt usage among commercial motor vehicle drivers rose to a new high of 65 percent," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Mary E. Peters, Tuesday during a national conference of state commercial vehicle law enforcement officers. "Though we've made great strides, we won't rest until 100 percent of commercial motor vehicle drivers wear a seat belt 100 percent of the time."

Currently, 82% of passenger vehicle drivers wear seat belts. A survey conducted in 2003 found that only 48% of truck drivers used seat belts. In 2006, this figure had improved to 59%. The results announced this week were the findings of the largest and most comprehensive study ever conducted, according to DOT.

FMCSA Hours of Service Regulations. Now that the public comment period has ended on the hours of service (HOS) Interim Final Rule (IFR) the FMCSA is in the process of reviewing the comments and they hope to issue a final rule sometime in 2008. If the Interim Final Rule is finalized, as proposed, there will be no changes to the current Hours of Service Regulations.

Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators. Proposed Regulation comment period has been extended to May 23, 2008. This proposed regulation requires that before a driver can apply for a CDL they must complete a total of 120 hours of training in classroom and in cab.

Ontario Canada Considers limiting trucks to 105 kilometers per hour or 65mph. The government of Ontario has resurrected a plan to make speed limiters mandating maximum mandatory truck speeds at about 65 miles per hour in the province, according to the Ontario trucking Association, which backs the plan.