



DOT Prohibits Texting When Driving

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is prohibiting texting on electronic devices by commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver during the operation of motor vehicle containing a quantity of hazardous materials requiring placarding.

Distracted driving reduces a driver's situational awareness, decision making, or performance, possibly resulting in a crash, near-crash, or unintended lane departure by the driver. DOT has been studying the distracted driving issue with respect to both behavioral and vehicle safety countermeasures. Researchers and writers classify distraction into various categories, depending on the nature of their work. Texting while driving applies to these three types of driver distraction (visual, physical, and cognitive), and thus may pose a considerably higher safety risk than other sources of driver distraction. The study also found that drivers were engaged in non-driving related tasks in 71 percent of crashes, 46 percent of near-crashes, and 60 percent of all safety-critical events. Tasks that significantly increased risk included texting, looking at a map, writing on a notepad, or reading.

Therefore, this new rule prohibiting texting is an effort to improve the health and safety on the Nation's Highways by reducing the prevalence of distracted driving related crashes, fatalities, and injuries involving drivers of commercial motor vehicles.

If you would like more information on this study, contact Midwest Environmental Services, Inc., at 800-388-5160 regarding Hazardous Materials: Limiting the Use of Electronic Devices by Highway.

Midwest Environmental Services, Inc.
PO Box 218. Brownstown, IN 47220. 812.358.5160 /phone. 812.358.5642 /fax
info@midwestenvironmentalservices.com /email
24 HOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE: 1.877.999.7745