

Seat Belt Use: For All Mobile Equipment All the Time!

What does OSHA Say to Employers?

OSHA requires you to provide a safe working environment for you and your employees. Whether or not you're in Construction or General Industry, the general focus is that you are required to protect your employees from serious and recognized hazards (Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act). And, OSHA can and will cite you for not complying with the standards, best practices—or your equipment manufacturers' instructions.

What can managers & supervisors do?

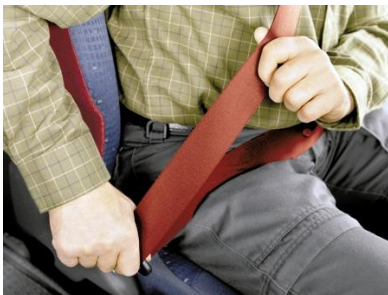
- ✓ Urge all drivers and operators to use seat belts properly. Implement a written seat belt-use program and have everyone understand and sign it.
- ✓ Make sure all your equipment is up to current safety standards—do a safety check on all equipment regularly. Include seat belts, mirrors, backup alarms and fire extinguishers. Keep a log of all checks and repairs.
- ✓ Remind your employees that all accidents are preventable. Have them keep this in mind for keeping each other safe.
- ✓ Create incentives for safety-conscious employees.

What does this mean for the company “bottom line”?

Implementing a safe driver/operator program not only saves your business money, it saves lives. Many companies have started safe driver programs with positive results. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's estimate for 2008 showed an increase in the use of seat belts and the lowest national fatality rate since 1961. A safer driver equates to lower fleet and workers compensation rates!

What can workers do?

- ✓ Wear the seat belt provided! This rule applies to **any** vehicle or piece of equipment that has a seatbelt.
- ✓ Do not give a ride on equipment or vehicles unless each person has and uses a seat belt.
- ✓ Make seat belt use a habit with your own vehicles – every time and all the time!



For additional resources:

- OSHA's Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes - http://www.osha.gov/Publications/motor_vehicle_guide.html
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health – NIOSH – for case studies and more information - www.cdc.gov/NIOSH