

# Welcome



*This is an introduction to:*

*Reverse Signal Operation Safety Requirements  
For General Industry & Construction In Virginia  
16 VAC 25-97*

# *Applicability*

## *16VAC 25-97-10*

- **This regulation applies to all General Industry & Construction Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment that are:**
  - **Capable of operating in reverse direction, and**
  - **Have an obstructed view to the rear**
  - **Whether intended for operation:**
    - **In off-road use (Construction/Work Zones) or,**
    - **Over The Road Transportation or for Hauling.**

# Definitions

## *16VAC 25-97-20*

- **Obstructed View to the Rear:**

**Anything that interferes with the overall view to the rear of the vehicle at ground level from the control area when operating the vehicle or piece of equipment.**

# Definitions

## *16VAC 25-97-20 Cont.*

- Examples of things that might interfere with the view include, but are not limited to:
  - Any part of the vehicle structural members (e.g. "B" or "C" Pillars, Headache Boards, etc.).
  - Loads (e.g. gravel, sand, machinery parts) that operators are unable to see over in order to see ground level behind the vehicle.

# Definitions

## *16VAC 25-97-20 Cont.*

- There shall be no damage to side or rear windows or mirrors that are used for observation of rearview movement of the vehicle.
- If there is restricted view to the rear due to heavy fog, heavy snow or rain, or after dark, proper lighting must be provided.

# *Vehicle Requirements*

## *16 VAC 25-97-30*

### **A. No vehicle operated in reverse unless:**

- 1. It has a reverse signal alarm that is audible above all surrounding sounds, AND**
  - (a) A designated observer/ground guide signals it is safe to back-up,**
  - OR**
  - (b) Before operating the vehicle, the driver/operator visually determines that no employees are behind the vehicle.**

# *Vehicle Requirements* *16 VAC 25-97-30 Cont.*

**B. Covered Vehicles/Equipment not originally equipped or later retrofitted with back-up alarms are exempt from the requirement for a back-up alarm.**

**NOTE: If the manufacturer offered a back-up alarm retrofit kit at a reasonable and economically feasible cost, and the employer failed to have the retrofit alarm package installed, this exemption does not apply.**

# *Vehicle Requirements* *16 VAC 25-97-30 Cont.*

- C. **Where immediate correction is not feasible and back-up alarms are not operational, the covered vehicle shall be either:**
  1. **Operated in reverse only with a designated observer / ground guide, or**
  2. **Be removed from service until the alarm is repaired.**



# *Vehicle Requirements* *16 VAC 25-97-30 Cont.*

- D. All covered vehicles with operable video or similar technological capability equipment that is used by the driver that provides a full view behind the vehicle are exempt from having to utilize a designated observer / ground guide.**

# *Vehicle Requirements* *16 VAC 25-97-30 Cont.*

- E. **When any Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) regulation(s) that applies to covered vehicles conflicts with this regulation, the DOT Regulation shall take precedence.**

# Responsibilities

## 16 VAC 25-97-40

- A. While an employee is functioning as the designated observer / ground guide, they shall:
- 1) NOT engage in other activities not related to the covered vehicle being signaled.
  - 2) NOT use cell phones, personal head phones and similar devices that might pose a distraction to this duty.

# Responsibilities

## *16 VAC 25-97-40 Cont.*

- 3) Be provided with and wear during daytime hours, a traffic vest of a high visibility color (orange, yellow, strong yellow green, or fluorescent version of these colors).
- 4) Be provided with and wear during nighttime operations a traffic safety vest or jacket with retro-reflective material in orange, yellow, white, silver, strong yellow green, or a fluorescent version of these colors that shall be visible from a distance of one-thousand (1,000) feet.

# Responsibilities

## *16 VAC 25-97-40 Cont.*

- 5) **NOT** cross behind the vehicle, in close proximity so as not to be seen by the operator, while the covered vehicle is operating in reverse.
- 6) **ALWAYS** maintain visual contact with the operator of the covered vehicle while it is operating in reverse.

# Responsibilities

## *16 VAC 25-97-40 Cont.*

- 7) Maintain a safe working distance from the covered vehicle while it is operating in reverse.

# Responsibilities

## *16 VAC 25-97-40 Cont.*

- B. When using a designated observer / ground guide, no driver of a covered vehicle shall operate his vehicle in reverse unless he can maintain constant visual contact with the guide. If visual contact is lost, the operator shall IMMEDIATELY STOP stop the vehicle until visual contact is re-established with the guide before restarting reverse movement.

# Responsibilities

## *16 VAC 25-97-40 Cont.*

- C. Except as provided in sub-divisions "A" & "B" of the regulation (16VAC25-97-40), employees shall not enter or cross the path in close proximity of a covered vehicle that is moving in reverse direction.



# Training

## 16 VAC 25-97-50

- A. Prior to permitting any employee to engage in any covered activity under this regulation, the employer shall ensure that each driver of a covered vehicle and each designated observer / ground guide is trained in the requirements of this regulation.

# Training

## *16 VAC 25-97-50 Cont.*

- B. Refresher training shall be provided by the employer for any driver of a covered vehicle or any designated observer / ground guide when the driver or guide has:**
- 1) Been observed violating the requirements of this regulation.**

# Training

## *16 VAC 25-97-50 Cont.*

- 2) **Been involved in a reverse signal operation accident or near miss,**
- 3) **Received an evaluation that reveals that the driver or observer is not operating under this regulation in a safe manner.**

# *Motor Vehicles*

## *16VAC25-175-1926.601*

- b) **General Requirements – See the Reverse Signal Operation Safety Requirements for Motor Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment in General Industry and The Construction Industry at 16VAC25-97**

# Material Handling Equipment 16VAC25-175-1926-602

See Reverse Signal Operation Safety Requirements for Motor Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment in General Industry and the Construction Industry, 16VAC25-97.

# Mechanical Equipment

## 16VAC25-175-1926.952

**(a) General - See Reverse Signal Operation Safety Requirements for Motor Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment in General Industry and the Construction, 16VAC 25-97.**

Should you have any questions or need an interpretation of this material, please contact the VOSH Director, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry at:

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# Sample Quiz Questions

1. Training of drivers and ground guides is not necessary until they have been on the job for at least 30 days.  
True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_
2. If the back-up alarm breaks while operating your vehicle, it can still be operated in reverse without a ground guide if you are very careful and honk your horn all of the time while backing up. True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_
3. The designated ground guide must wear a traffic vest of high visibility color while working in daylight. True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_
4. The designated ground guide should pass as close as possible behind the vehicle when performing their assigned duties. True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_
5. It is okay for the driver to continue to operate his vehicle when either or both of his rear view mirrors are cracked or broken. True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_



# Sample Quiz Answers

1. Training of drivers and ground guides is not necessary until they have been on the job for at least 30 days. True \_\_\_ or False X
2. If the back-up alarm breaks while operating your vehicle, it can still be operated in reverse without a ground guide if you are very careful and honk your horn all of the time while backing up. True \_\_\_ or False X
3. The designated ground guide must wear a traffic vest of high visibility color while working in daylight. True X or False \_\_\_
4. The designated ground guide should pass as close as possible behind the vehicle when performing their assigned duties. True \_\_\_ or False X
5. It is okay for the driver to continue to operate his vehicle when either or both of his rear view mirrors are cracked or broken. True \_\_\_ or False X