



REVERSE SIGNAL OPERATIONS

16 VAC 25-97

STATISTICS

National Safety Council reports that backing accidents cause about 500 deaths and 15,000 injuries per year, and over the last few years, there have been around 70 backover deaths per year, primarily in construction and transportation industries.



SCOPE

The 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.

OBSTRUCTED VIEW TO THE REAR

Anything that interferes with the overall view to the rear of the vehicle

Examples:

- 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.
- 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.



REVERSE OPERATIONS



- No vehicle may be operated in reverse unless:
It has a reverse signal alarm that is audible above all surrounding sounds, AND
- A designated observer/ground guide signals it is safe to back-up, OR
 - Before operating the vehicle, the driver/operator visually determines that no employees are behind the vehicle.



BACK-UP ALARMS

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.



BACK-UP CAMERAS

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.



GROUND GUIDES

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.
- 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.

- 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.

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



DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES



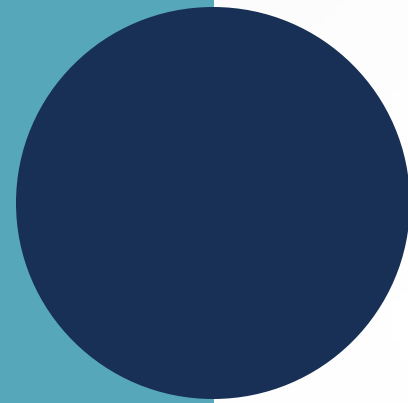
When using a designated observer / ground guide, no driver of a covered vehicle shall operate his vehicle in reverse unless he can maintain constant visual contact with the guide. If visual contact is lost, the operator shall IMMEDIATELY STOP the vehicle until visual contact is re-established with the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



Employees shall not enter or cross the path in close proximity of a covered vehicle that is moving in reverse direction.



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



TRAINING

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.

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.

Injury Prevention

An injury-free mindset will help make a safer work environment.

Hazard recognition is the first step in having a safe workplace.

Once you recognize the hazard, you must do something about it.

By controlling or eliminating the hazard, you have made the workplace safer.





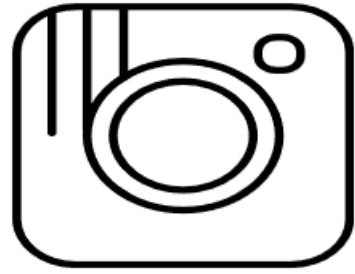
Injury Free Culture

Ask yourself the question “What IF I could go my entire career injury free?”

Injury Free is a cultural attitude. It is a way of thinking that prevents injuries, making safety a high priority at both the personal and organizational levels.



<https://doli.virginia.gov/what-if/>



@worksafeva



@worksafeva



@worksafeva
Virginia Cooperative Programs

WWW.DOLI.VIRGINIA.GOV

