**Reverse Signal Operation Safety Requirements, 16VAC25-97**

**Coverage and Definitions:**
- All construction and general industry vehicles, machinery or equipment capable of operating in reverse and with an "obstructed view to the rear."
- "**Obstructed view to the rear**" is anything that interferes with the driver’s view to the rear of the vehicle at ground level & includes structural members of the vehicle; its load (e.g., gravel, dirt, machinery parts); its height relative to ground level viewing; damage to windows or side mirrors, etc., used for rearview movement; restricted visibility due to weather conditions (e.g., heavy fog, heavy snow); or work being done after dark without proper lighting.

**Covered vehicle requirements:**
- Do not back-up any covered vehicle unless it has a back-up alarm audible above the surrounding noise level, and it is backed-up only when a ground guide signals that it is safe to do so; or before backing-up, the driver looks to see that no employee is in the path of the vehicle.
- If the back-up alarm stops working properly & an immediate fix is not possible that day, the vehicle shall be backed-up using ground guide signals; or taken out of service until the alarm is repaired.

**Ground Guides SHALL NOT:**
- Do any activities other than those related to the vehicle being signaled;
- Use personal cell phones/head phones, etc., that could cause a distraction;
- Walk close behind a vehicle that is backing-up.

**Ground Guides SHALL:**
- Be trained in the safety rules in this regulation;
- **Always stay where the vehicle driver can see you while he is backing-up:**
- Stay a safe working distance from the vehicle;
- Be provided with & wear during the day a safety vest/jacket in orange, yellow, strong yellow green or fluorescent versions of these colors;
- Be provided with & wear at nighttime a safety vest/jacket with retroreflective material in orange, yellow, white, silver, strong yellow green or a fluorescent version of these colors (visible at a minimum distance of 1,000 feet).

**Drivers/Operators SHALL:**
- Be trained in the safety rules of this regulation; and
- **NOT** back-up a vehicle unless they keep constant line of sight of the ground guide. **If the driver loses sight of the ground guide, they shall immediately stop the vehicle** until sight of the ground guide is regained and a signal is received from the ground guide to restart back-up operations.

**All Employees SHALL NOT:**
- Walk close behind a vehicle that is backing-up.

**Training:**
- Refresher training shall be provided for any driver or ground guide when they have violated the regulation; been involved in a reverse signal accident or near miss; or received an evaluation indicating they have not been operating under this regulation in a safe manner.

*Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, 2009*