Reverse Signal Operation Safety Requirements for Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment for General Industry and the Construction Industry, 16 VAC 25-97

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Topics Covered:

§ 10 Coverage

This regulation applies to all general industry and construction industry vehicles, machinery or equipment capable of operating in reverse and with an obstructed view to the rear (**referred to as** "covered vehicles").

§20 Definitions

"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

§30 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; <u>or</u> taken out of service until the alarm is repaired.

§30 Exemptions

- Covered vehicles with operable video or similar technological capability providing the driver with a full view behind the vehicle are exempt from the requirement to use a ground guide.
- To the extent that any federal Department of Transportation (DOT) regulation applying to covered vehicles conflicts with this chapter, the DOT regulation shall take precedence.
- Covered vehicles that did not have back-up alarm when manufactured or were not later retrofitted with an alarm are exempt from the requirement to have a back-up alarm. If the manufacturer offered the employer a back-up alarm retrofit package at a reasonable and economically feasible cost and the employer did not have the retrofit package installed, this exemption does not apply.

§40 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.

§40 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).

§40 Drivers/Operators SHALL:

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

§40 All Employees SHALL NOT:

• Walk close behind a vehicle that is backing-up.

§50 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, <u>or</u> received an evaluation indicating they have not been operating under this regulation in a safe manner.

Training Provided To:

