

CMV Safety Belt Use OVERVIEW

Safety belt use is on the rise! The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) 2010 annual *Safety Belt Usage by Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Drivers Survey* indicates that safety belt use among commercial motor vehicle drivers reached 78 percent in 2010—a 20 percent increase over a four-year period (2007–2010). The usage rate for other occupants in CMVs is 64 percent.

For the 2010 survey, a total of 26,830 CMV drivers and 1,929 other CMV occupants were observed at 998 sites nationwide. Results demonstrate that safety belt use is higher in states with primary belt use laws (80%) than in states with secondary belt use laws (72%). The report also indicates safety belt use among drivers and other occupants identified as part of a regional or national trucking fleet is higher than independent owner-operators. The chart below shows the steady increases in safety belt use by major characteristics from 2007 to 2010.

CMV Drivers and Other Occupant Groups	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Use	Use	Use	Use
All Occupants	64%	71%	73%	77%
Drivers	65%	72%	74%	78%
Other Occupants	56%	61%	61%	64%
Drivers and Other Occupants Governed by				
Primary Belt Use Laws	69%	80%	78%	80%
Secondary or No Belt Use Laws	58%	64%	67%	72%
Drivers and Other Occupants in Commercial Motor Vehicles with Fleet Types of				
National/Regional	67%	75%	78%	80%
Independent	55%	62%	64%	71%
Drivers and Other Occupants in Commercial Motor Vehicles with Body Types of				
Bobtail	58%	76%	73%	71%
Commercial Bus	56%	36%	49%	47%
School Bus	68%	89%	83%	82%
15-Passenger Van	84%	84%	71%	88%
Intermodal Container	72%	80%	81%	75%
Dump	54%	59%	57%	65%
Flatbed	60%	69%	73%	74%
Van	69%	75%	77%	80%
Tanker	69%	72%	77%	82%
Other	57%	64%	67%	73%
Drivers and Other Occupants in Commercial Motor Vehicles with the Configurations of				
Straight Truck	62%	66%	68%	71%
Articulated—Single Trailer	64%	73%	76%	80%
Articulated—Double Trailer	77%	85%	84%	87%
Articulated—Triple Trailer	100%	100%	100%	95%
Bobtail	58%	76%	73%	71%
Bus	69%	73%	69%	76%

CMV Drivers and Other Occupant Groups	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Use	Use	Use	Use
Drivers and Other Occupants in Trucks¹ Carrying				
HazMat	78%	79%	82%	86%
Non-HazMat	64%	71%	73%	77%
Drivers and Other Occupants in the				
Northeast: CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT	53%	56%	64%	69%
Midwest: IA, KS, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI	56%	60%	68%	73%
South: AL, AR, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV	63%	77%	75%	79%
West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY	79%	81%	79%	82%
Drivers and Other Occupants Traveling Through				
Light Precipitation	66%	72%	77%	68%
Light Fog	56%	72%	76%	81%
Clear Weather Conditions	64%	71%	73%	77%
Drivers and Other Occupants Traveling in				
Heavy Traffic	67%	74%	76%	79%
Moderately Dense Traffic	56%	62%	67%	71%
Light Traffic	59%	65%	60%	69%
Drivers and Other Occupants in Subjectively Characterized				
Urban Areas	60%	78%	72%	74%
Suburban Areas	67%	74%	74%	78%
Rural Areas	63%	69%	73%	77%
Drivers and Other Occupants Traveling during				
Weekdays	63%	71%	73%	77%
Weekday Rush Hours	64%	72%	74%	78%
Weekday Non-Rush Hours	63%	70%	72%	76%
Weekends	70%	75%	75%	79%
Drivers and Other Occupants on				
Expressways	69%	76%	76%	79%
Surface Streets	58%	64%	68%	73%

¹HazMat status is not applicable to Commercial Motor Vehicles with a Configuration of Bobtail or Bus because Bobtails and Buses cannot carry hazardous materials. Consequently, all observed Commercial Motor Vehicles classified as Bobtails or Buses are excluded.

To obtain a copy of the *Safety Belt Usage by Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers (SBU CMVD) 2010 Final Report*, please contact Brian Ronk, Marketing Specialist, at (202) 366-1072 or email Brian.Ronk@dot.gov.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

