

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.