



## OCCUPANT RESTRAINT RECOMMENDATIONS

More than 20,000 occupants of commercial motor vehicles are injured in crashes annually. One out of every 5 truck drivers who is killed in a motor vehicle crash is ejected. Wearing a seatbelt while driving or in the passenger seat, and using a sleeper berth restraint while in the sleeper berth are highly effective ways to prevent serious injuries and reduce the likelihood of death in a crash. As such, Midwestern Insurance Alliance encourages policyholders to adopt as many of the following controls as feasible.

1. Implement an aggressive plan to increase the safety belt usage of drivers within your company, and document the training and materials provided to employees. A manual entitled Increasing Safety Belt Use in Your Company that contains handouts and other resources can be found at <http://truckingworkerscomp.com/resources/handouts/>.
2. Develop a written policy to address the mandatory use of safety belts. A sample policy that addresses both safety belts can be downloaded at <http://truckingworkerscomp.com/resources/sample-policies/>
3. Develop a written policy to address the use of sleeper berth occupant restraints for your team drivers. A sample policy that addresses both safety belts and a sleeper berth occupant restraints can be downloaded at <http://truckingworkerscomp.com/resources/sample-policies/>
4. As a part of orientation training, require each new-hire driver to sign a pledge that states, "I will wear my safety belt because my well-being greatly affects my family and loved ones. It is my responsibility to maintain control of my vehicle. Using my safety belt is my best chance of remaining in control of my truck in a crash or emergency situation. I will always remember to buckle up."
5. During the driver selection process, review the PSP report of the driver applicant, ensuring that a discussion occurs during the interview process that addresses any seatbelt violation noted on the PSP report. The goal with this process is to evaluate the attitude of the driver applicant toward seatbelt use and to ensure that the driver applicant is aware that seatbelt violations are not condoned at your company.
6. Instruct dispatchers to routinely remind drivers to "buckle-up."
7. Specifically address seatbelt use in the company safety policy and in new driver orientation training.
8. Ensure that the company's disciplinary policy, categorizes seatbelt violations as "serious" and that the corresponding disciplinary action is more stringent than violations that are less than serious.
9. Conduct periodic behavior observations to ascertain seat belt usage.

10. Equip trucks with high visibility seat belt shoulder harness by installing high visibility seatbelt covers on seatbelts in existing trucks and by ordering new trucks with high visibility seatbelts.
11. Use posters and brochures in areas of your facility that are frequented by drivers to promote seatbelt use. Posters and brochures can be downloaded at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/safety-belt/be-ready-be-buckled-outreach-and-education-materials>