



California Trucking Law Newsletter



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FMCSA Warns About Using Auto GPS Systems in Trucks

By Calvin R. Stead, Esq.



As many as 80% of bridge strikes in New York state result from large vehicles whose drivers do not use the right navigation devices, according to a 2009 study. In response, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has begun distributing visor cards for commercial vehicle operators warning that using GPS navigation devices meant for

smaller vehicles can be dangerous and could lead to trucks hitting low bridges. It urges use of GPS devices designed for large trucks that incorporate road restrictions such as low bridges and directs truck drivers on how to avoid these problems. In addition to distributing the recommendations, the FMCSA will require GPS device training as a part of an upcoming recommendation mandating training for all entry-level truck and bus drivers.

Truck specific GPS use among commercial truck drivers is a major step toward avoiding life-threatening bridge strikes that have been causing massive delays and imposing significant costs on taxpayers. The FMCSA has been complimented by federal legislators for implementing a proactive approach toward helping truckers eliminate GPS-related accidents.

Free Classes on Diesel-Regulation Compliance

The California Air Resources Board is hosting free classes on complying with CARB diesel regulations. Truck owners and operators, as well as brokers, dispatchers and fleet managers, are all responsible for complying with its regulations. The course reviews the inspection process, discusses the consequences of non-compliance and explains how to comply with the programs and regulations including:

- * Heavy-duty diesel vehicle inspection program.
- * Periodic smoke inspection program.
- * Commercial vehicle and school bus idling.

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- * Truck and bus regulation.
- * Transport refrigeration unit airborne toxic control measures (ATCM).
- * Drayage truck regulation.
- * Tractor-trailer greenhouse-gas regulation.
- * Public agency and utilities, public transit agencies and solid waste vehicle regulations.
- * Off-road regulation.

The Course does not cover cargo handling equipment, marine vessels, locomotives, portable engines/equipment or stationary engines.

The class schedule is periodically updated; please check the CARB website (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/>) for changes and additional sessions.



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