

Seat Belt / Occupant Restraint Policy



**Stover Transportation, Inc.
3710 Lacon Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026**

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Updated by : Josh Vittie

1 Seat Belt and Occupant Restraint Policy Overview

SAFETY BELT USE IS MANDATORY!

It is Stover Transportation, Inc. policy that seat belts must be used at all times while driving, or riding as a passenger in, any Stover Transportation, Inc. vehicle.

Furthermore, seat belts must be used at all times when driving or riding as a passenger in a personal vehicle while on company business or performing any travel that has a connection to work with Stover Transportation, Inc.

The seat belt requirements are in effect regardless of seating position in the vehicle – even those in the rear must wear seat belts.

2 Federal Regulation

49 CFR 392.16 reads as follows:

§ 392.16: Use of seat belts.

A commercial motor vehicle which has a seat belt assembly installed at the driver's seat shall not be driven unless the driver has properly restrained himself/herself with the seat belt assembly.

As all Stover Transportation, Inc. equipment has seat belt assemblies installed, you are required to use it in accordance with Federal Law.

3 Ohio Law

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4513.263: Occupant restraining devices reads as follows:

(B) No person shall do any of the following:

(1) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device, or operate a school bus that has an occupant restraining device installed for use in its operator's seat unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of the device, as properly adjusted;

(2) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless each passenger in the automobile who is subject to the requirement set forth in division (B)(3) of this section is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device;

(3) Occupy, as a passenger, a seating position on the front seat of an automobile being operated on any street or highway unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device;

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(4) Operate a taxicab on any street or highway unless all factory-equipped occupant restraining devices in the taxicab are maintained in usable form.

4 Proper Use of a Seat Belt

Seat belts are to be worn properly when required to be used.

1. Seat belts are to be adjusted to the proper height (in vehicles with an adjustable height).
2. Seat belts are to be properly positioned on the body:
 1. Lap belt snug over the hip bones.
 2. Shoulder strap secure across the chest / shoulder.
3. Straps must not be twisted.
 1. Straps must lay flat against the body.
4. Retractor / locking mechanism must not be locked
 1. There should be no slack in the shoulder strap.

5 Sleeper Berth Restraints (where applicable)

For sleeper berths, occupant restraint systems installed by the manufacturer must be used, whether the system is at the entry point of the berth or incorporated as a belt-type restraint within the berth itself.

6 Responsibility of Fines / Penalties

1. Employees are responsible for payment of penalties in the event a citation is issued.
2. An employee will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination, as outlined in the Driver's Orientation Handbook, if:
 1. Seat belts are not worn at all.
 2. Seat belts are not worn properly.

7 Resources / References

Resources with additional information for seat belt / occupant restraint device use in Commercial Motor Vehicles include the following Internet resources, or available in hard copy at the Stover Transportation, Inc. office:

1. Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Belt Program – U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:
 1. <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/commercial-motor-vehicle-safety-belt-program>
2. Outreach and Education Materials – U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:
 1. <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/safety-belt/be-ready-be-buckled-outreach-and-education-materials>