

Commercial Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Use 2008 Survey

In August 2008, the Missouri Safety Center and MoDOT's Highway Safety division conducted a survey of commercial motor vehicle safety belt use. The overall usage rate among CMV drivers, 73.4 percent is an increase of almost six percent over the usage rate in 2007.

Commercial vehicle driver's safety belt use was lower for the straight type vehicles (65.1%) than for combination vehicles (75.4%).

Among the straight vehicles, bus drivers had the highest safety belt use and dump truck drivers the lowest with 78.2 and 53.3 percent respectively.

Table 11
CMV Driver's Safety Belt Use
By Vehicle – Type 7*(Straight Truck)

Vehicle Type 7 Straight Frame	Restrained		Not Restrained	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Van	989	68.5	455	31.5
Tanker	176	76.5	54	23.5
Dump	305	53.3	267	46.7
Flat Bed	415	57.5	307	42.5
Bus	401	78.2	112	21.8
Other	493	62.7	293	37.3
Total	2779	65.1	1488	34.9

*Type 7 vehicles generally had six or more tires and a straight frame

The combination single trailer drivers' safety belt use was 80.8 percent while the combination dump truck drivers had only a 58.2 percent safety belt usage rate.

Table 12
CMV Driver's Safety Belt Use
By Vehicle – Type 8*(Combination Vehicles)

Vehicle Type 8 Combination Vehicle	Restrained		Not Restrained	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Box Trailer	8807	75.9	2800	24.1
Single Tanker	942	80.8	224	19.2
Double Trailer	985	80.1	245	19.9
Flat Trailer	1435	74.0	505	26.0
Car Hauler	331	75.7	106	24.3
Bobtail	342	74.0	120	26.0
Dump	373	58.2	268	41.8
Other	171	61.3	108	38.7
Total	13386	75.4	4,376	24.6

*Type 8 vehicles had 10 or more tires and were combination vehicles

Source: "Missouri Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Belt Survey Final Report", Missouri Safety Center, September 2008

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Additional facts from the 2008 survey

- CMV drivers observed on a freeway roadway type had the highest safety belt usage rate of 74.5 percent and drivers on two-lane roadways had the lowest usage rate of 61.8 percent.
- The five counties with a safety belt usage rate of 40 percent or less are: St. Clair, Dunklin, Gentry, Taney and Andrew.
- Fourteen counties had safety belt usage rates between 80 and 89 percent: Pettis, Saline, Henry, Lynn, Randolph, Crawford, St. Francis, Lawrence, McDonald, Vernon, Webster, Texas, Phelps, Pulaski.
- The safety belt usage rate was above 90 percent in three counties, Perry, Ste. Genevieve, and Newton.
- Commercial motor vehicle drivers of vehicles displaying hazardous material placards had a safety belt usage rate of 86.3 percent

Safety is primary. So is the seat belt regulation for commercial drivers.

No matter how many accident-free miles you have, no matter how big the truck you operate, no matter your opinion about seat belt law, the safest place for you to be in a crash is behind a buckled safety belt. Besides keeping you from careening through the cab, it keeps you in a position to possibly regain control and avoid secondary collisions - so even more travelers get to Arrive Alive.