



S&W READY MIX CONCRETE COMPANY	January
CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL / SAFETY PROGRAM	
New Cell Phone Ban - MONTHLY TRAINING TOPIC	

A new federal law banning the use of hand-held phones by commercial vehicle drivers goes into effect January 3rd, 2012. So that means truckers and bus drivers, even on local roads, aren't supposed to be using their cell phones while driving.

The new law is part of a push by federal transportation officials to cut down on the number of crashes caused by distracted driving, specifically those caused by drivers using cell phones.



Here's the new law, enacted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:

The final rule prohibits commercial drivers from using a hand-held mobile telephone while operating a commercial truck or bus. Drivers who violate the restriction will face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle for multiple offenses. Additionally, states will suspend a driver's commercial driver's license (CDL) after two or more serious traffic violations. Commercial truck and bus companies that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while driving will face a maximum penalty of \$11,000. Approximately four million commercial drivers would be affected by this final rule."

S&W Policy

S&W already has a policy that states:

Operations employees are strictly prohibited from using personal cell phones while operating the vehicle or equipment on the highway, while present on job sites performing their assigned tasks, or while performing their assigned tasks at the plant. Operators of company vehicles or equipment will only be allowed to use personal cell phones if the vehicle is parked in a safe off-road location away from traffic and job sites or the vehicle or equipment is parked in a designated area, i.e. company parking lot and they are not performing work on behalf of S & W Ready Mix Concrete. Use of company supplied communication devices while performing safety sensitive duties must also be limited to instances when doing so will not interfere with the safe operation of the equipment. The best practice would be to wait and respond when stopped in a safe place.

Since S&W policy is already in compliance with the new federal law, there shouldn't be much change in the way we already do business; however, the penalties have become much more serious if you are caught breaking this law. Take a moment today and ensure everyone is aware of what's expected of them and how they can set a huge example by just following the rules.