ASPHALTPRO
PRODUCTION - PROFESSIONALS - PRODUCTS

12 SAFE STEPS FOR HAUL TRUCK DRIVERS

Haul truck drivers have a commercial driver license (CDL) that certifies them to operate the heavy vehicle they drive. But that license doesn't certify them to understand the nuances of navigating an asphalt plant or the paving work zone. It's up to contractors hiring the drivers to make sure they've been trained to handle the different aspects of hauling and delivering multiple tons of hot, perishable material. It's up to drivers to make sure they know how to deliver this material safely. This is a set of safe and sensible guidelines for drivers and general contractors to begin with.

1 Attend the pre-job preparation meeting to get informed on project details, project scope and route directions. Know where the job is, when to arrive and how to get there.

2 Truckers be aware: Do not overload your truck in excess of your vehicle's registered gross vehicle weight.

3 Cover your load and protect the public from falling debris. This also protects your perishable product from heat loss.

4 Headlights and visible 360-degree beacons must be on, along with four-way flashers. Ensure backup alarms are on and functional.

5 All trucks must have a clean and visible "Construction Vehicle—Do Not Follow" sign. At the end of each shift, you should take the time to walk around your vehicle and clean any reflective tape or signs that have gotten dirty.

6 All drivers must stay with their trucks. If there's some reason to leave the safety of your cab, you must always wear your safety vest and hardhat when outside your vehicle.

7 No unauthorized U-turns will be made at any time. Obey all state and city traffic laws.

8 CB radios, company radios or phone equipment should be used for legitimate business purposes only. Think safety.

9 Obey all requests of the project manager, traffic control and highway officials.

10 Use caution when backing up and look for direction from the person who is directing your backup. (The groundman or dump man will be assigned during the pre-job preparation meeting mentioned in guideline #1 above.) Look out for people, vehicles and property. Use both mirrors.

11 Trucks leaving the paver should pull out to the left, allowing the next loaded truck to back up to the paver. Trucks leaving the paver should go immediately to the designated cleanout area. Follow this mnemonic for the designated cleanout area: Anyone still listening to Dolly Parton? Use the country singer to help you remember to

D –designate cleanout area only
O –only release agents, no diesel fuel
L – lower the body before you leave the cleanout area
L – lights, body, surroundings—double-check these before you leave the cleanout area
Y –yield to traffic when leaving the cleanout area and/or the work zone

12 If you have any questions, please ask the project manager or plant superintendent. If you aren't sure, be safe and ask!

Think safety always. Safety is for life—yours!

This information is provided to the AsphaltPro audience by paving consultant John Ball. Ball is the proprietor of Top Quality Paving & Training, Manchester, New Hampshire. For more information, contact him at (603) 493-1458 or tqpaving@gmail.com.