



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alabama releases metal coil training requirements

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Public Safety recently released its certification requirements for those hauling metal coil loads that originate or terminate in Alabama.

ADPS is partnering with the Alabama Trucking Association (ATA) to offer Web-based training and certification through the AdvanceOnline training system. The required training is available at www.metalcoiltraining.com for non-Alabama Trucking Association members. Standard fee for the course per driver is \$15.

ATA members are eligible for a \$5 discount. Please contact ATA headquarters at 334-834-3983 to obtain a password and instruction.

According to Public Safety officials, to become certified in proper steel coil load securement, as required by Code of Ala.1975, §32-9A- 2(a) (4)a, a commercial vehicle operator must:

- Complete the Securing Metal Coils course through DPS' metal coil securement training Web site, and take the exam at end of course;
- Retain the certificate generated by the testing Web site upon passage of the exam;
- Sign the certificate and also have your employer sign the certificate;
- Retain an original copy of the fully-signed certificate in the commercial vehicle when hauling metal coils; and
- Provide each and every motor carrier for which he/she hauls or will haul metal coils with a fully-signed copy of the certificate.

The announcement of the promulgated rule completes a three-year process led by the Alabama Trucking Association, the governor's office and other state agencies to improve safety and training for those who haul steel coils.

Since 1987, about 30 coils have fallen from the backs of flatbed trailers along Birmingham-area interstates, mostly at the Interstate 65 and I-20/59 interchange. State transportation officials estimate the damage to highways at approximately \$7.5 million.

In March, Gov. Bob Riley signed the Alabama Steel Coil Bill into law at U.S. Steel's facility headquarters in Fairfield. While the rules for securing steel coils are the same as

those set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), the new law requires drivers hauling steel coils loads that originate or terminate within Alabama to be certified by the Alabama Department of Public Safety, and it increases penalties for improper coil securement.

For instance, a company hiring an uncertified driver could face fines of \$5,000 to \$10,000. Uncertified drivers could be fined from \$250 to \$1,000 and sentenced to as much as a year in jail. If an improperly loaded steel coil falls from a truck, the state can levy fines of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 against the company or driver.

Alabama metal coil law went into effect June 1, with DPS officials indicating that there will be a "60-day period of soft enforcement" to allow time for companies to train drivers and staff. However, during that time enforcement agencies are instructed to punish instances of gross violations.

If you have question about the law and its training requirements, please contact Gene Vonderau at 334-834-3983.

The Alabama Trucking Association is a non-profit corporation operating as a trade association. ATA represents the Alabama motor carrier industry in the advancement of highway transportation and serves as the "voice of trucking" in Alabama. It conducts activities for the improvement of trucking service to the public and sponsors programs for the trucking industry in the public interest and industry betterment. The Association's membership consists of more than 720 industry representatives, including for-hire and private truck operators and allied members (those who equip and service the industry).

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