

Pay attention to signs

Road conditions and status can change. It is important to note that no matter what form of GPS a commercial vehicle driver uses, he or she should pay attention to local signage. Local postings provide the most up-to-date guidelines.




WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRUCK NAVIGATION DEVICES

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For all commercial truckers utilizing navigation devices

In 2010, the Illinois General Assembly created the Global Positioning System (GPS) Technology and the Designated Truck Route System Task Force to study the advances in and utilization of GPS technology relating to commercial motor vehicles, such as tractor-trailers. As a result, Public Act 97-291 was passed, which requires the Secretary of State's office to provide information regarding commercial motor vehicle GPS devices.

This brochure contains important information regarding the differences between GPS devices designed for use in passenger vehicles and those designed for use in commercial motor vehicles. It is important that commercial vehicle drivers use navigation devices specifically designed for trucks in order to get the most benefit out of the services and ensure a safe trip for the driver as well as others sharing the road.

Jesse White

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Secretary of State

Truck GPS devices

Although personal navigation devices — commonly called GPS devices — have existed for car use for years, devices that accurately route trucks are relatively new. Unlike car GPS units, truck-specific GPS devices take into account road restrictions, type of load carried, truck configuration and other metrics.



Truck devices help prevent commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) from getting stuck on roads, under bridges or other inappropriate places, thus preventing traffic incidents. The devices also keep CMVs off of weight-restricted roads and bridges, which in turn protects the structural integrity of our highways. They also help to keep hazardous loads off restricted roads, further improving public safety.

Dangers of using a car GPS

The use of a car GPS for navigation by commercial vehicle drivers can be dangerous. Across the nation there have been several high-profile “bridge strikes” and other accidents in which truck drivers were using car GPS devices to route them.



Truck-designated routes

There are a variety of federal, state and local laws that govern where CMVs may or may not travel. Federal law governs: 1) the weight of vehicles on the Interstate System, 2) the width of vehicles on the National Network and 3) the maximum length of vehicles on the National Network. The National Network is comprised of the Interstate System and designated highways that are part of the federal-aid primary system. The National Network totals about 200,000 miles of highway across the United States.



CMV Restrictions

States or local municipalities may restrict or allow commercial vehicles. **Physical** restrictions occur due to low vertical clearances, such as bridges and underpasses, or due to weight and/or length requirements. **Legal** restrictions reflect truck-prohibited roads. Other restrictions may occur based on items being transported, such as hazardous materials.

States are required, however, to allow access within one mile of the National Network, except for safety reasons on individual routes.