



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, October 23 has an actuality with a Department official.

"The United States is unique among nations in requiring seat belt usage by drivers of trucks and buses involved in interstate or foreign commerce. Commenting on this is the Director of Motor Carrier Safety, Dr. Robert Kaye, following his return from the First International Conference on Driver Behavior which was held in Zurich, Switzerland.

"Of particular interest was that I found no evidence of a requirement for the use of seat belts in commercial vehicles and intercity buses by any of the 50 or so nations represented at the Conference. This is particularly noteworthy since the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, in the United States, have required for the past 2 years that seat belts be installed in trucks and buses, and that the driver be required, under penalty of law, to wear his seat belt while the vehicle is in operation, in interstate or foreign commerce. This regulation applies to approximately 5 million truck and bus drivers in the United States. To date, some commercial drivers have been convicted and fined for not using seat belts. Indications are however that there is an increase in voluntary compliance with this rule."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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