



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

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Joe Miller, Loss Control Consultant
Associated General Contractors
9450 S.W. Commerce Circle
Suite 200
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank-you for contacting us October 4, 1996 regarding OR-OSHA's position on the use of seat belts by forklift operators. The main question your letter seems to ask is:

Do the OR-OSHA rules require seat belts on lift trucks that have F.O.P.S. rather than R.O.P.S. and do they need to be worn?

Answer: At this time no, however a rule is being drafted that will address the installation and use of restraint systems on lift trucks.

As you are well aware, OR-OSHA's experience in Oregon has shown that lift truck operators who are not wearing a seat belt when accidents occur are much more likely to be seriously injured or killed. Until the new rule is promulgated we urge you to make the wearing of seat belts mandatory with your members. Seat belts do save lives.

If we can be of any further assistance please call Bob Thiessen at (503) 378-3272.

Sincerely

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division