

**BAN ON TEXTING FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS  
ANNOUNCED BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*January 26, 2010*

The United States Transportation Secretary, Ray LaHood, announced a Federal ban on texting for all commercial truck drivers, which would include large trucks and buses. The prohibition is effective immediately and is one of a series of actions taken by the Department to combat distracted driving.

The Secretary convened a national summit on the issue last September. As LaHood explained “this is an important safety step and we will be taking more action to eliminate the threat of distracted driving”. Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to both civil and/or criminal penalties up to \$2,750.00.

The Federal Motor Carry Safety Administration research shows that drivers who send and receive text messages take their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds out of every 6 seconds while texting. At 55 miles per hour this means that the driver is traveling the length of a football field including the end zones without looking at the road. It is estimated that drivers who text while driving are more than 20 times more likely to get into an accident than the non-distracted driver.

President Obama also signed an Executive Order directing Federal employees not to engage in text messaging while driving government-owned vehicles or with government-owned equipment. Federal employees were required to comply with this demand starting September 30, 2009.

If you are involved in an accident consider requesting the other driver’s phone number, including cell phone number. Your attorney can later subpoena records to explore if the use of a cell phone or blackberry may have contributed to the accident. If you spend a lot of time on the phone while in your vehicle, consider obtaining a hand’s free device.