



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 1, 2013

TO: Driving School Owners
FROM: Jean Ferguson Oswald
SUBJECT: October 1, 2013 Law Changes

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TRAFFIC LAW CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2013

Please be aware that two important changes to traffic safety laws went into effect on October 1, 2013:

- Effective October 1, 2013, Maryland's cell phone law now prohibits a driver from using a handheld cell phone while a motor vehicle is in motion. This is now a primary offense. Law enforcement officers can stop a driver solely for using a handheld cell phone no other offense is needed.
- Effective October 1, 2013 Maryland has a primary seat belt law for front seat occupants AND a secondary seat belt law for back seat occupants.

Learner's instructional permit holders and provisional license drivers under the age of 18 are already subject to these restrictions. For driving coaches/parents and any driver over 18, they will have a significant impact. Attached to this email are bulletins from the Maryland Highway Safety office and the Governor's Office that explain the new laws and the penalties associated with violating them.

For more information on the new laws, you may also go to the Towards Zero Deaths website at <http://www.towardzerodeathsmd.com/>

In the next few days, we will be sending out additional updates to driving schools, DIP schools, and 3 Hour Alcohol and Drug Education program schools to suggest ways to integrate this information into the appropriate curriculum.

Thank you for your continued dedication to promoting traffic safety and for keeping the information in the driver education curricula current and relevant.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Jean Ferguson Oswald at 410-787-7863 or at joswald@mdot.state.md.us.