

**TOWN OF
AMHERSTBURG**

POLICY NO.: Countering Distracted Driving Policy



SOURCE:	
SECTION:	
DATE ENACTED:	August 24, 2009
DATE OF AMENDMENT:	

1.0 Policy Overview

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide uniform guidelines for the safe use of cellular (cell) phones, PDA devices including but not limited to blackberry devices and other hand held devices.

1.2

Applies to vehicles provided by employer and personal vehicles operated during any working period.

2.0 Policy

2.1

During any working period no employee shall drive a motor vehicle on a road or highway if the display screen of a television, computer or other device in the motor vehicle is visible to the driver.

2.2

During any working period no employee shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a hand-held wireless communication device or other prescribed device that is capable of receiving or transmitting telephone communications, electronic data, and mail or text messages.

2.3

During any working period no employee shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a hand-held electronic entertainment device or other prescribed device the primary use of which is unrelated to the safe operation of the motor vehicle.

3.0 Exceptions

3.1 Navigation Systems

The display screens of stationary global positioning system navigation devices, commercially-used logistical transportation tracking systems, collision avoidance systems and instruments, gauges and systems providing information regarding the status of systems of the motor vehicle are exempted.

3.2 Hands-free mode allowed

Driving while holding or using a hand-held wireless communication device or electronic entertainment device is prohibited. Use of such devices in the hands-free mode is exempted. Use of such devices while the motor vehicle is off the travelled part of the road, not in motion and not impeding traffic is exempted.

3.3 Emergency Services

Drivers of ambulances, fire department vehicles and police department vehicles are exempted from the prohibitions respecting hand-held wireless communication devices, as are any drivers using the devices to contact ambulance, police or fire department emergency services.

4.2 Definitions

Definition

"Motor vehicle" includes a street car, motorized snow vehicle, farm tractor, self-propelled implement of husbandry and road-building machine operated during any working period.

5.0 Individually Owned Devices

This policy applies to employer and employee owned devices. Employee owned devices are not exempt.

6.0 Violation of Countering Distracted Driving Policy

Any violation of the Countering Distracted Driving Policy will be addressed with the Human Resources Department who will facilitate the complaint.

Any violation will be reason for disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal.

7.0 Revisions

This policy will be reviewed on an 'as needed' basis by the Senior Management Team for report to Council in open session.