



One of the most important aspects of maintaining safety in any dock operation is control of all vehicle traffic. This begins with permitting entry only to those trucks making deliveries or picking up merchandise. These authorized drivers then need clearly posted “rules of the road.”

The following outlines a set of procedures to help create a safe environment for everyone on wheels and on foot.

### Traffic Flow

- Have clearly marked lanes of travel to indicate the truck route from yard entry to a designated parking area or to the dock. Also clearly mark the way to exit the yard.
- Direct traffic flow in one direction around the dock as much as possible.
- Establish and enforce a yard speed limit.
- Post signs where parking is not allowed.
- Parking areas for trucks not at the dock should be marked and located far enough away from the dock to allow safe movement of units to and from the dock.
- Non-dock parking areas should be marked to allow the most effective use of space.
- Non-dock parking areas should allow trucks to pull forward into spaces and pull forward to exit the parking space, to eliminate backing up as much as possible.
- Visibility is important when moving a vehicle on the lot. Identify any blind spots, such as at corners around buildings. Post warning signs and, if possible, flashing lights to alert drivers to the hazard.
- Make sure yard area where there is vehicle movement is as level as possible. Repair damage to pavement or concrete before it develops into a sinkhole.

### Driving at the Dock

- Require drivers to sound their horns with two quick beeps before backing to the dock.
- Provide and maintain back-up alarms on your company vehicles.
- Back-up cameras and/or sensors are good tools to consider installing.
- Do not allow just anyone to act as a spotter. Train employees how to be spotters. They must make sure the driver understands their signals. Spotters should always wear safety vests and never walk directly behind a vehicle; always be visible in the driver’s mirror.
- Mark trailer lanes and positions clearly for easy backing and spotting.
- Ensure chocks (i.e., wheel stops) and dock bumpers are available and in good repair.
- Provide adequate trailer locking devices to prevent trailer creep or dock walk, which can cause a gap to open between the trailer and dock.
- Integrate dock levels and locking devices with signal lights so drivers know when it is safe to move the trailer.

### Pedestrians

- If workers must walk in the yard to enter the dock, have a clearly marked, possibly covered, walkway for them to use.
- Clearly mark where drivers and helpers are to enter the building.
- Do not allow anyone to wander around the yard or dock.
- Have a designated place for drivers and helpers to go when not in their trucks.
- Have a designated place for drivers to stand when they must watch their trucks being loaded or unloaded.
- Require anyone walking or working in the yard to



wear a safety vest.

- Require drivers to wear safety vests when on the dock.
- Make sure stairs and/or ramps from yard level to the dock have adequate handrails.
- Make sure stairs have uniform risers and level treads. Establishing these procedures and enforcing compliance is vital to the financial fitness of your business as well as to the safety of all who enter your yard.