

Belt Loader Fact Sheet **General Driving**

Driving around the ramp can be a challenging task due to movement of aircraft and ground support equipment in close proximity to one another. Weather conditions such as snow, rain, and wind increase the already difficult challenge of driving on the ramp. By driving as a defensive driver many ground support equipment accidents can be avoided. Workers should follow the guidance provided in this fact sheet for safe driving on the Airport Operations Area.

Definitions

- VSR – The Vehicle Service Road is designed to provide a recognized thoroughfare for vehicles moving between gates and other locations.
- GSE – Ground Support Equipment
- FOD – Foreign Object Debris (i.e. soda cans, newspapers, trash)
- AOA – Airport Operations Area

Safe Driving Information (General)

- Possession of a valid and up-to-date State (or other government-issued) driver's license and an Airport driver's license (if applicable) will help ensure employees know the driving regulations.
- Take responsibility for the belt loader you are driving. Driving safely includes no reckless driving, equipment abuse, willful driving negligence or horseplay. This will help create a safer driving environment.
- Completing a daily service and safety check at the beginning of each shift will ensure the belt loader is safe to operate.
 - Check fluids (fuel, oil, etc). Inspect the ground beneath the vehicle for engine, transmission and axle fluid leaks.
 - Check tires for low pressure, cracks, tears and low tread.
 - Check hand and foot brakes.
 - Check the steering.
 - Check all lights: Headlights, tail lights, back up lights and turn signals.
 - Check bumpers, chocks, pins (safety rail)
 - Check overall appearance: Check the vehicle and undercarriage for loose or hanging parts that may fall off or cause a malfunction.
 - FOD Free: Check on and around the equipment for FOD and dispose of any FOD appropriately.
- Individuals driving or riding on a belt loader need to be seated in a regular seat designed for passenger or driver use.
- The belt loader needs to be driven with the conveyor platform in the lowered position to prevent obstruction to the drivers view.
- Bags, cargo and FOD should never be transported on a belt loader.
- Whenever possible, the vehicle service roads need to be used.
- All speed limits and traffic signs need to be followed.
- Pay special attention to the clearances required by the vehicle's length which includes driving on the ramp, inside tunnels, inside buildings, and along walls.
- Watch for aircraft, emergency equipment, and pedestrian traffic at all times and yield to them the right of way.
- Never pass vehicles traveling in the same direction at intersections, blind spots, or other hazardous locations.

- Use common sense and drive at the appropriate speed for the weather condition. Leave additional space between vehicles during weather events.
- Each individual needs to wait until the vehicle has come to a complete stop before disembarking.
- Belt loaders should be parked (staged) in the proper location when not in use.
 - Improperly parked belt loaders can contribute to reduced visibility, obstacles, and potential collisions.
- Equipment handbrakes need to be set and engines turned off whenever belt loaders are left unattended. Motorized equipment should be in park or neutral gear.

Additional Resources

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

- [14 CFR 139](#), Certification and Operations: Land Airports Servicing Certain Air Carriers. This is part of the electronic code of federal regulations. Specific areas of interest for the airline industry may include:
 - 139.101, Certification requirements: General
 - 139.203, Contents of airport certification manual
 - 139.205, Amendment of contents of airport certification manual
 - 139.329, Ground vehicles

[Part 139 Certification](#). Requires the FAA to issue airport operating certificates to airports that serve scheduled and unscheduled air carrier aircraft with more than 30 seats or that the FAA Administrator requires to have a certificate.

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