

# NETS Member Cell Phone Policies

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## Executive Summary

NETS surveyed 24 companies that operate vehicle fleets to compare their policies related to the use of cell phones.

**Sixteen of the twenty-four respondents have a total ban on the use of cell phones.** The ban may be global, in the USA and Canada, or within different business units. **Nine permit hands-free use and one permits hand-held use but will shortly announce a total ban.** Two respondents reserve the right to check cell phone records. One respondent will terminate an employee for violating its global no cell phone usage policy.

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<b>Company</b> (names removed at request of participants)	<b>Hands-free OK</b>	<b>Total Ban</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1.</b>	USA				No reimbursement if citation issued  Use of cell phones prohibited while fueling company vehicle
<b>2.</b>		USA	Points added to company driving record		
<b>3.</b>		USA	Points-based system used if cited while using a cell phone		
<b>4.</b>		USA	Disciplinary action		
<b>5.</b>		USA		Emergencies/ personal safety/ security	
<b>6.</b>		USA/Canada			
<b>7.</b>	USA				
<b>8.</b>		Global			
<b>9.</b>		USA			
<b>10.</b>	Global				
<b>11.</b>	Ex-USA	USA			
<b>12.</b>		Global	Termination for using a cell phone	Emergencies	Policy includes contractors
<b>13.</b>	USA				

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<b>Respondent</b> (names removed at request of participants)	Hands-free OK	Total Ban	Enforcement	Exceptions	Comments
14.		USA/Canada		Emergencies	
15.		Global	Up to and including termination	Emergencies	Will subpoena driving records
16.		USA	If crash occurred while driver was using a cell phone, crash will be considered preventable and driver at fault		
17.	USA				Electronic device policy under review
18.		Global	Crash reviews include checking cell phone records. This could result in disciplinary action	Emergency (But must be with hands-free cell phone)	Discourages use of cell phone by passengers if the topic could be distracting to the driver
19.	Global				
20.	Global				
21.		Global			Specifies that cell phones must be off
22.		Global	Up to and including termination	Emergencies	
23.		Some USA business units Some countries			
24.	Hand-held and hands-free permitted but will soon issue a total ban guideline.				USA: Employees driving on company business should avoid using hand-held cell phones. New guideline is being developed banning all cell phone use in the USA
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>			

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From the 2009 (Data Year 2008) Fleet Safety Benchmark Survey

Prepared by Safety Management Solutions (SMS)

## Questions 25, 25.1 and 25.2: Mobile Phone Policies

- Does your company have a written policy banning or restricting the use of mobile phones while driving?
- **If yes**, which of the following best describes your policy?
- What does your company do if a driver is involved in a collision while s/he is talking on the phone, in violation of company policy, while driving? (Choose all that apply.)

Policy in place	% Total (35)*	% Leaders (7)
Yes	86%	86%
Which best describes policy	% Total (30)	% Leaders (6)
Ban the use on <u>any</u> type of phone while driving	43%	83%
Allow only the use of hands-free mobile phones	57%	17%
If a violation of policy occurs	% Total (30)	% Leaders (6)
Disciplinary action	70%	83%
Termination	30%	50%
Issue a warning	37%	0%
Conduct a commentary drive	0%	0%
No special action taken	20%	0%
<i>Note: One company did not respond</i>		