

# Member Status on Texting Bans

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Dear NETS Members,

August 25, 2011

I received a question from a NETS member asking about text blocking technology while a vehicle is being driven.

The table below has the responses to the following questions:

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1. Are you using technology to block texting while the vehicle is driven? (Y/N)
2. If "Yes", what features led you to select the particular technology you are using (Please **do not** include the vendor's name.)
3. What has been your experience with the use of texting blocking technology?

It's clear to me this is an emerging area of interest and we will have the opportunity to discuss it at our Fleet Safety Conference in October.

Thank you to those of you who provided responses.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Yours truly,

Jack

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Executive Director  
Network of Employers for Traffic Safety  
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<p><b>ARE YOU USING TECHNOLOGY TO BLOCK TEXTING WHILE THE VEHICLE IS DRIVEN? (Y/N)</b></p>	<p><b>NUMBER INTERESTED IN THE TECHNOLOGY</b></p>	<p><b>COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Note: I have made all the comments anonymous. Please email me at <a href="mailto:jhanley@trafficsafety.org">jhanley@trafficsafety.org</a> if you would like to contact any of those commenting.</p>
<p><b>No : 28</b> <b>Yes: 0</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>1) One of our issues is that the majority of our field sales representatives are reimbursed for their cell phone. It is not company property. Therefore, there is always a discussion about how much we can mandate/regulate someone's personal property used for business purposes. (Same goes for cars.)</p>
		<p>2) We do not utilize any technology to block texting. Most of our drivers carry their personal phones. At this point, we have no plans to block texting.</p>
		<p>3) We don't have any formal program around this. Some op cos are trying out but not far enough along to offer a reply on this. Some apps out there are very reasonably priced!</p>
		<p>4) Not yet, but <u>actively</u> considering/evaluating vendors.</p>
		<p>5) ... is not using this technology. There are many legal questions and data privacy questions that have to be answered first. We use our life saving rules. "If you choose to use your phone (including texting and hands free) while driving on company business, you choose not to work for ..." Since the company has access to company provided mobile phone records, it not too difficult to cross check where we have</p>

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		concerns (e.g. we always check in incident investigations, etc.).
		6) ... is not using blocking technology. I've looked into it, but upper management won't approve the use.
		7) Approximately one year ago we had a presentation from Texas A&M on research they are doing on the emerging technology.
		8) No we are not – but we're interested in learning about the possibilities of the technology as we have a complete phone / texting ban.

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