

# Make Sure They Can See You

Lack of visibility is one of the leading causes of accidents today. It is not just weather related or a night time issue. A driver should also be asking themselves, "Can they see my truck?" Here are five keys to keeping your truck visible at all times.

## Key 1:

Being visible to others is vital to avoid becoming involved in a collision. Other drivers can't avoid you if they cannot see you. That's why it's important to use all the tools at your disposal to increase your visibility while on the road, or at a delivery location. These tools include marker lights, conspicuity tape, headlights, brake lights, horn and turn signals.

## Key 2:

Always use your turn signals when changing lanes or making a turn. They are especially helpful when maneuvering through busy parking lots, loading docks and terminal facilities. Turn signals are critical tools because they indicate your intentions before you perform a turning or lane change maneuver.

## Key 3:

Marker lights and conspicuity tape on the sides of a trailer are the main manners in which another motorist will see you when traveling through an intersection or crossing a roadway. Conspicuity tape must be in good condition and spaced properly so that the entire trailer, from front to back, is visible. Lights that are not operational must be repaired prior to beginning your route. Report all light and conspicuity tape defects on your DVIR and submit the report to your manager or shop supervisor.

## VISIBILITY IS KEY!

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## Key 4:

When you are bobtailing, you are less visible than when you pull a properly marked and lit trailer. Make sure that any tractor you operate is marked with white conspicuity tape on the top rear corners, and, red and white conspicuity tape along the top of the mud flaps.

## Key 5:

Missing or burned out marker lights, worn or missing conspicuity tape, and malfunctioning brake lights will always result in a citation during a roadside inspection and make you less visible to others. A dry van trailer must have horizontal and vertical conspicuity tape on both upper corners above the rear door(s). Flatbed trailers must have similar markings on the back of their bulkhead. Both dry vans and flatbeds must have horizontal conspicuity tape, on the rear, at floor level and on the ICC bumper. Be safe, be visible and make sure they can see you!

## Key 6:

17% of the population has one pupil larger than the other. This can create the illusion that a vehicle is farther away than it actually is. You can have eye contact with another driver and believe that they clearly see you and then they pull in front of you anyway. Be alert and have a plan.