

Teen Driving Limits

Receive: November 1st, 1998

New federal legislation will affect the ability of 16-17 year-old youth to drive as part of their employment duties.

Under the changes, 16-year-olds no longer may drive on public roads as part of their jobs. Previously, these youth could do occasional job-related driving such as running errands or making deliveries, the U.S. Labor Department said.

In another new policy, 17-year-olds may drive as much as one-third of their work day or 20 percent of their work week, Labor said. Employees age 17 may drive cars and light trucks as part of their job, but only during daylight hours.

Such workers also must have a valid license and no record of any moving violation at the time of their hiring.

More Often, But With Restrictions

In effect, the change allows 17-year-olds to drive more often for work but sets new restrictions on their driving-related activities, Labor said. For example, 17-year-olds may not tow vehicles, perform regular route deliveries, transport more than three passengers or drive beyond a 30-mile radius from their job site. In addition, these youth may not:

- deliver urgent, time-sensitive material;
- make more than two trips away from the job site in a single day;
- transport property, goods or passengers in return for pay.

Driving also must be “only occasional and incidental to the 17-year-old’s employment,” Labor said. The provisions are part of the Teen Drive for Employment Act, which became law on October 31, 1998.