

SAFETYFIRST

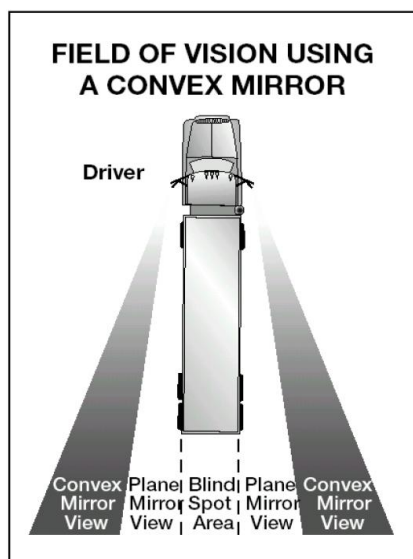
INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY

AHEAD OF
THE CURVE

Safety Management
Services Company, 2016

An affiliate of
Cottingham & Butler

Be Safe Out There



Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Use of Mirrors

Truck mirrors are both important and required. When driving, having an awareness of everything around you is critical to safety and essential for making good decisions. Per the FMCSA, and with limited exceptions, “every truck shall be equipped with two rear-vision mirrors, one at each side, firmly attached to the outside of the vehicle.” Check your mirrors regularly and more often in special situations.

Most trucks on the road use both plane (flat) mirrors and convex mirrors (curved, "fisheye," "spot," "bugeye") mounted on both sides of the cab. Convex mirrors can often be helpful as they show a wider area than plane mirrors; however, everything appears smaller in a convex mirror than it would if you were directly looking at it. Objects also seem farther away than they really are. This is important to realize and to allow for.

Mirror Adjustment

Mirror adjustment should be checked prior to the start of any trip and can only be checked accurately when the trailer(s) are straight. While sitting behind the steering wheel in your normal driving position, adjust each mirror so that on the inside edge, you see the side of the vehicle body. Each mirror's entire reflective surface should be visible to you. In addition to proper adjustments, mirrors must be firmly mounted, as vibration can interfere with the reflected image.

Mirrors should not be relied upon to judge distance. To avoid a backing collision, it is important to use the Get Out And Look (G.O.A.L.) approach. If any potential obstacle may be hidden, get out and thoroughly check. Finally, back the unit at the lowest speed possible.

If mirrors are not kept clean, even the best positioning and adjustment will not matter. Have supplies on hand to keep mirrors free of dirt, dust, and weather-related obstructions such as condensation, frost, and ice. In addition, windows must also be free of visual obstructions.