DATE: October 29, 1997

TO: Regional Engineers
Regional Associate Delivery Engineers
Regional Construction Engineers
TSC Managers/Resident/Project Engineers

FROM: Gary D. Taylor  C. Thomas Maki
Chief Engineer/Deputy Director Deputy Director
Bureau of Highway Technical Services Bureau of Highway Operations

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONAL MEMORANDUM 1997-8
Equipment Back-Up Warning

Several fatal accidents have occurred during the 1997 construction season due to malfunctioning equipment backup warning devices.

Do not allow material handling equipment on a construction worksite that lacks a means to warn others when it is backing up. Material handling equipment is equipment that moves material in any manner. The warning is for your safety, those around you, and is a requirement of OSHA.

Even though contractors are responsible, MDOT will be cited by MIOSHA for allowing equipment with no functional back-up warning system in place on our projects. The OSHA Rule states:

No employee shall use any motor vehicle equipment having an obstructed view to the rear unless the vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level or the vehicle is backed up only when an observer signals that it is safe to do so.

Again, for the safety of all on construction projects, be alert of your physical surroundings by paying particular attention to equipment backing up.