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Are Radar Detectors Illegal in Commercial Motor Vehicles?

Yes. In 1994 the Federal Department of Transportation banned the use of radar detectors in commercial vehicles engaged in interstate commerce. In addition, several states – Illinois, New York and New Jersey – ban radar detectors in commercial vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds, and all vehicles over 18,000 pounds. Each state determines and enforces its own penalties against truck drivers who use radar detectors.

Speeding trucks represent a very serious problem on U.S. roads. More than 10% of all truck accidents are caused by a truck driver going too fast, and nearly 30% of truck drivers who are involved in accidents, each year, have a prior conviction for speeding. Speeding is dangerous for any vehicle, but it is even more serious for large trucks. Even when adhering to the speed limit, large trucks take a much longer time to stop, due to their weight and size.

In recent years, radar detectors have become much more sophisticated – but law enforcement tools for catching violators have become more sophisticated, too, and most weigh stations also have tools to determine whether a truck driver is using a radar detector.

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Send comments or questions to:

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