

**PART 1240—SAFETY INCENTIVE
GRANTS FOR USE OF SEAT
BELTS—ALLOCATIONS BASED ON
SEAT BELT USE RATES**

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AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 157; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.48 and 1.50.

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Subpart A—General

§ 1240.1 Purpose.

This part establishes requirements and procedures governing the allocation of funds to States made under 23 U.S.C. 157(c), based on seat belt use rates.

§ 1240.2 Applicability.

These procedures apply to all allocations of funds to States, based on seat belt use rates, beginning with allocations for fiscal year 1999.

§ 1240.3 Definitions.

As used in this part—

Base seat belt use rate means the highest State seat belt use rate for the

State for any calendar year during the period from 1996 through the calendar year preceding the previous calendar year;

Federal medical savings means the amount of Federal budget savings relating to Federal medical costs (including savings under the Medicare and Medicaid programs under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.1395 *et seq.*)), as determined under this part;

FHWA means the Federal Highway Administration;

NHTSA means the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration;

Passenger motor vehicle means a passenger car, pickup truck, van, minivan, or sport utility vehicle;

State means any of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico.

State seat belt use rate means the seat belt use rate for a State, rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent, after any required weighting, adjustment, or substitution under this part, that is used in determining eligibility for and the amount of an allocation under this part.

Subpart B—Determination of Allocations

§ 1240.10 Identification of eligible States.

(a) On or about September 1, 1998, and each September 1 thereafter, NHTSA will identify, on the basis of seat belt use rates determined, as applicable, under §§1240.11, 1240.12, and 1240.13 of this part—

(1) Each State that had a State seat belt use rate during the previous calendar year and the year preceding the previous calendar year that exceeded the national average seat belt use rate for each of those years; and

(2) Each State that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section and that had a State seat belt use rate during the previous calendar year that exceeded the State's base seat belt use rate.

(b) Any seat belt use rate used in making the determinations under this part shall be rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent.

(c) A State identified under paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section, and not ineligible under §1240.12(a)(2) of this part, shall receive an allocation of funds reflecting the Federal medical savings, in accordance with the procedures of §§1240.14 and 1240.15 of this part.

§ 1240.11 Determination of State seat belt use rate for calendar years 1996 and 1997.

(a) *Review of State-submitted information.* NHTSA will review available seat belt use rate information submitted by each State for calendar years 1996 and 1997 to determine whether—

(1) Measurements of seat belt use were based on direct observation;

(2) At least 70 percent of observation sites were surveyed during the calendar year for which the seat belt use rate is reported;

(3) All passenger motor vehicles were sampled; and

(4) All front seat outboard occupants in the sampled vehicles were counted.

(b) *Determination of State seat belt use rate.* Seat belt use rate information submitted by a State for calendar year 1996 or 1997 will be—

(1) Accepted as the State seat belt use rate if it satisfies paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(4) of this section.

(2) Accepted after adjustment in accordance with the procedures of Appendix A of this part, as the State seat belt use rate, if it satisfies paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, but fails to satisfy paragraph (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this section.

(3) Rejected, and the procedures of Appendix B of this part shall apply, if it fails to satisfy paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section.

§ 1240.12 Determination of State seat belt use rate for calendar year 1998 and beyond.

(a) *State seat belt use survey.*

(1) Beginning in calendar year 1998, State seat belt use rates used for determining allocations under this part shall be based on a survey conducted each calendar year by each State that satisfies all the requirements of Part 1340 of this title (the Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use).

(2) A State that does not conduct a survey required under paragraph (a)(1) of this section in any calendar year, or that conducts a survey that does not satisfy all the requirements of part 1340 of chapter III of this title, shall be ineligible for an allocation of funds on the basis of both §1240.10(a)(1) and §1240.10(a)(2) of this part during the second and third succeeding fiscal years (e.g., if a State fails to conduct a conforming survey in calendar year 1998, the State is ineligible for an allocation of funds during FY 2000 and FY 2001).

(b) *Submission of survey information.*

(1) Each State shall submit to NHTSA, no later than March 1st after the calendar year during which a survey required under paragraph (a)(1) of this section is conducted, the seat belt use rate determined under the survey, reported as a percentage to one decimal place, accompanied by a survey report, consisting of all documentation identified in §1340.5 of chapter III of this title and summarizing the results of any analyses conducted under the survey.

(2) NHTSA will review a survey report submitted under paragraph (b)(1) of this section to determine whether the survey complies with all the requirements of §1340 of chapter III of this title. Written notice of approval or disapproval of a survey will be sent to the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety within 30 days of receipt of the survey report. Any notice of disapproval will be accompanied by a detailed statement of the reasons for disapproval.

(3) A State may elect to submit a description of its proposed survey methodology, consisting of all documentation identified in §1340.5 (a), (b) and (c)(3) of chapter III of this title for advance review, prior to conducting the survey.

(4) NHTSA will review a proposed survey methodology submitted under paragraph (b)(3) of this section and inform the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety in writing within 30 days of receipt of the proposed methodology whether the survey, if conducted in accordance with the methodology, would comply with all the requirements of §1340 of chapter III of this