



Products which prohibit mobile phone use while driving

Briefing Note

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Key2SafeDrivng¹

This is a product developed by engineers at the University of Utah. This is a wireless car key device that stops motorists from talking or sending text messages while driving. It is a product marketed towards parents of teenage drivers and is currently available in the USA.

The system is comprised of a device that surrounds the car key which connects wirelessly with the user's mobile phone via Bluetooth or RFID (radio-frequency identification technologies) putting the phone into "drive" mode. In this mode the driver cannot use the phone for either calls or to send texts. Any incoming calls are answered by a message saying "*I am driving now. I will call you later when I arrive at the destination safely*".

When the engine is turned off a signal is sent to the phone returning it to normal communication mode.

Drivers can still use a hands-free mobile phone.

Drive Assist Guardian²

A Canadian software company, Aegis Mobility, has developed a product called DriveAssist™ Guardian. This device is automatically initiated when a vehicle is in motion, and is designed to deter outgoing phone use unless the subscriber is a passenger and overrides the system. Incoming calls go to voice mail and texts are stored until driving has ended. DriveAssist tracks and reports phone usage while driving, and can be customized to meet specific corporate cell phone policies, as well as comply with all applicable federal, state and local bans and restrictions on cell phone driving. Emergency calls through the 911 system are always allowed.

CellSafety³

WQN Inc is a Dallas-based company which employs GPS technology to disable the mobile phone. It does this by telling how fast the phone is travelling but can't tell if the phone's owner is driving. It can therefore needlessly lock mobile phones.

¹ http://www.cellphonedigest.net/news/2008/12/stop_your_teenager_from_talkin.php

² Taken directly from: <http://www.aegismobility.com/home/news/38-partnership-promotes-corporate-cell-phone-driving-safety>

³ <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28735387/>