§ 1340.7 Observation procedures.

(a) Data collection dates. All survey data shall be collected through direct observation completely within the calendar year for which the Statewide seat belt use rate will be reported. Except as provided in §1340.5(c), the survey shall be conducted in accordance to the schedule determined in §1340.6.

(b) Roadway and direction(s) of observation—(1) Intersections. If an observation site is located at an intersection of road segments, the data shall be collected from the sampled road segment, not the intersecting road segment(s).

(2) Roads with two-way traffic. If an observation site is located on a road with traffic traveling in two directions, one or both directions of traffic may be observed, provided that—

(i) If only one direction of traffic is observed, that direction shall be chosen randomly;

(ii) If both directions of traffic are observed at the same time, States shall assign at least one person to observe each direction of traffic.

(c) Vehicle coverage. Data shall be collected by direct observation from all access ramps; cul-de-sacs; traffic circles; or service drives.

(b) Sampling selection requirements. The set of road segments selected for observation sites shall be chosen based on probability sampling, except that—

(1) The specific observation site locations on the sampled road segments may be deterministically selected;

(2) An alternate observation site may be used to replace an observation site selected based on probability sampling if it is located in the same county or county-equivalent, and has the same roadway classification (e.g., local road segment, collector road segment) when using the protocol of substitution and rescheduling of observation sites pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) Requirements for substitution and rescheduling of observation sites. The survey design shall include at a minimum the following protocols:

(1) Protocol when observation site is temporarily unavailable for data collection. (i) Observers shall return to the observation site at another time provided that it is on the same day of the week and at same time of the day or select an alternate observation site, as described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, provided the data are collected on the same day and at approximately the same time as the originally-scheduled observation site.

(ii) The original observation site must be used for future data collections.

(2) Protocol when observation site is permanently unavailable for data collection. (i) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2)(ii), another observation site shall be selected in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) If it is not feasible to select another observation site based on probability sampling for the current data collection, an alternate observation site, as described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, may be selected, provided the data is collected on the same day and at approximately the same time as the originally-scheduled observation site.

(iii) For future data collections, another observation site must be selected based on probability sampling in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) Precision requirement. The estimated seat belt use rate must have a standard error of no more than 2.5 percentage points.

§ 1340.6 Assignment of observation times.

(a) Daylight hours. All daylight hours between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. for all days of the week shall be eligible for inclusion in the sample.

(b) Random assignment. Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the day-of-the-week and time-of-the-day shall be randomly assigned to observation sites.

(c) Grouping of observation sites in close geographic proximity. Observations sites in close geographic proximity may be grouped to reduce data collection burdens if:

(1) The first assignment of an observation site within the group is randomly selected; and

(2) The assignment of other observations sites within the group is made in a manner that promotes administrative efficiency and timely completion of the survey.