

Computers in Autos

As we proceed into a world where pen tops and personal computers are part of many employees' standard equipment, several issues of safety and security should be of concern.

Security

One of the prime considerations is the security of computer and video equipment when left unattended in a vehicle. It should be common sense that valuable equipment needs to be kept out of sight. This means that it should *always* be kept locked in the trunk of your car when not in use. "Out of sight is out of mind." If a passerby cannot see it, he/she will not be tempted by it.

Variations in Temperature

When storing the computer in your auto, recognize that you must meet specific temperature considerations. Do not store the computer at temperatures below -4°F or above +100°F; do not use or turn on the computer outside of the range +32°F to +95°F. If the computer is stored at a temperature below freezing, warm it up to +32°F before turning it on. In the summer or in warm climates, storage in the trunk is normally cooler than inside the passenger compartment, since the sun's rays cannot penetrate to the interior of the trunk.

Personal Safety

An equally important consideration is your personal safety if you are transporting the computer within the interior of the vehicle as you drive from one location to another. In the event of an accident, any loose object will become a projectile. Consider the force of a 3-7 pound computer with carrying case when it is traveling at 35 mph. It is most definitely not something that you want to strike you on the side of the head!

To prevent this from happening, *always* secure the computer or video equipment with a seat belt *through* part of the carrying case. When a computer is properly secured by a belt, not only will *you* be protected from possible harm in the event of an accident, so will the computer. It is not safe to try to operate the computer while you are driving. Reserve computer operation for a time when you are properly and safely parked.

LOSS CONTROL FELLOWSHIP

For more information, contact your local Hartford agent or your Hartford Loss Control Consultant. Visit The Hartford's Loss Control web site at <http://www.thehartford.com/corporate/losscontrol/>

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