



Congratulations to Vincent S. Archuleta & the VSA PlugSaver company on receiving their official patent for the VSA- the semi electrical safety strap for truckers!

Throughout his 12 year career driving tractor/trailer, Vince Archuleta, has encountered many electrical failures due to the electrical plug on a tractor/trailer coming loose or falling out of the housing completely. He has also witnessed firsthand the dangers on the road and the quick fixes many truckers have had to rely upon due to the lack of reliable safety equipment available to them. As a trucker himself, Vince saw the VSA as a "no-brainer" for the trucking community: it just had to be invented. This is where the VSA story begins.

His Firsthand Experience

Vince has experienced his share of electrical cable malfunctions, as well as the quick fixes so many truckers have had to rely upon. As Vince expresses- these are repeat occurrences within his experience as a truck driver. Whether he was handling routine in-city hauls, or travelling out-of-town, Vince could not rely on the electrical connection of his haul. These regular mishaps with the electrical connection got Vince thinking of the potential safety hazards loose connections could create for everyone, not just the truckers. As drivers, we rely on the turn signals, brake lights, and standard electrical functioning of every vehicle on the road, so imagine getting behind a semi with no brake lights. Slightly terrifying right?

In 2009, Vince was hooking up trailers in the middle of a blizzard in South Dakota for a shuttle run with a set of doubles. As he had done so many times in the past, Vince had to rig up the electrical plug with a bungee cord as a temporary solution to tighten the loose connection he was experiencing with his haul. The loose connection was causing his tail lights to flicker and, at times, not function at all. Multiple times he had his electrical plug fall out simply from making turns while driving around town. This experience could have ended extremely badly. This moment convinced Vince he would have to create the solution.

How It All Began

Anyone who knows Vince knows that when he puts his mind to something, it happens. The first prototype of the VSA started in Vince's garage. With bike tire and knife in hand, Vince set out to create a functional strap he could rely on when he got behind the wheel of a semi. His original blueprint for the strap required that the strap not only be sturdy and adaptable for a wide range of trucks/trailers, but it would also need to be efficient and straightforward. These were stipulations he carried with him throughout the creation of the VSA and are now apparent in the final product.

Once the prototype was created, Vince set out to refine, improve, and consistently replicate his product. To do this, he knew he would need support. From 2016-2017, the VSA's team grew to include investors, a manufacture, and the hands of a few close friends who all recognized the value of the VSA and what it could do for the safety of trucking overall.



The progressive stages of the VSA's creation, manufacturing, and packaging.

A Community Effort

Enjoying the perks of being a South Dakota local, it was important to Vince to keep the manufacturing process, as well as the hands-on hiring for the VSA PlugSaver, in the Midwest as much as possible. In 2016, Glacial Lakes Rubber & Plastics, located in Watertown, SD, took on the challenge of creating the functional and reliably consistent version of Vince's original prototype of the VSA. Glacial Lakes exceeded Vince's expectations with their first batch of the product. Communication regarding the manufacturing process and the goals Vince had for the VSA PlugSaver grew as the VSA continued to be finessed. In 2017, Vince Archuleta and Tanner Pruess, COO, traveled to Watertown to see the production of the VSA PlugSaver. The visit was an influential and motivating experience for both Vince and Tanner as they watched the production of the VSA firsthand. Presently, the work of Glacial Lakes Rubber & Plastics continues to be a major contributing factor in the VSA's success.



Visit to Glacial Lakes Rubber & Plastics Watertown, SD 2017



After seeing the manufacturing process of his invention, and knowing its potential for increased safety for the roads, Vince set out to get the VSA PlugSaver in front of as many truckers as possible. With the guidance and hands-on help of Jim Huerta, CEO (who jumped on board the VSA dream in 2014), Vince began showcasing his product at truck shows. The VSA made its first truck show debut at the California Trucking show in 2017. With his first show under his belt, Vince took a team to the Mid-America Trucking Show a few months later. The response to the VSA PlugSaver was enormous. Truckers, fleet owners, and mechanics alike could see the usefulness of the VSA and its ability to reduce safety accidents within the community. Vince has plans to attend the Mid-America Trucking Show again this March, and to continue to reach as many truckers around the globe as possible.

What the Future Holds

Currently, the packaging and shipping of every VSA is done by Vince and a team of individuals who truly believe in the product's ability to make the roads safer for everyone. As the VSA PlugSaver's exposure continues to grow, Vince would like to hire local help to streamline the packaging and distribution of the product in order to get the VSA into the hands of truckers as quickly and efficiently as possible; after all, that is one less day a trucker has to feel insecure about the safety of his haul.

Vince recognizes the impact of word-of-mouth within the trucking community, and expresses his gratitude to anyone and everyone who has contributed to getting the VSA into the hands of truckers thus far. In the upcoming year, Vince would also like to share his story on platforms within the trucking community including websites, magazines, and radio/social broadcasts in order to let truckers know there is a product to make them feel safe on the roads once again.

As for the rest, Vince states he will continue to spread the word about his invention, because he has a mission to keep fellow truckers safe around the world. Congratulations Vince and the VSA PlugSaver company!