

4-2-82

Rules as Adopted

5 MCAR § 1.0220 General requirement. Satisfactory completion of a school bus driver's examination shall be required of every person required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321 to have a school bus endorsement to operate a motor vehicle used in the transportation of children to or from public, private or parochial schools and school related activities, and owned by a government agency, a private or parochial school corporation or agency, or a private person, firm, association or corporation.

5 MCAR § 1.0221 Tests. The test or examination required for an initial school bus driver's endorsement on a Minnesota driver's license shall include a written test and a road test.

A. Written test. The written test shall be based on the provisions of the "Highway Traffic Regulations Act" and driver license laws and rules relating to school bus operation prescribed by the State Board of Education, and a general knowledge of the operation of school buses, including knowledge of the equipment, devices, and laws peculiar to school buses. The written test shall be satisfactorily completed if a score of 70 is obtained. In determining whether a score of 70 has been obtained, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall weight each portion of the test with regard to the criticalness of the specific factor being tested in relation to overall driving safety.

B. Road test.

1. The road test shall be given in a school bus. There are two separate classes of endorsement: one for a school bus with a capacity of 16 passengers or fewer, the other for a school bus with a capacity of over 16 passengers. An endorsement issued to an applicant taking the test in the smaller bus will be restricted to a bus of that size. An endorsement issued to an applicant taking the test in the larger bus will be unrestricted.

2. The road test shall be satisfactorily completed if a score of 70 is obtained. In determining whether a score of 70 has been obtained, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall weight each portion of the test with regard to the criticalness of the specific factor being tested in relation to overall driving safety.

5 MCAR § 1.0222 Physical examination.

A. Physician's certificate. An applicant for a school bus driver's endorsement shall be in good physical and mental health, be able-bodied and free from communicable disease. As evidence of his physical fitness and mental alertness, the applicant shall submit to a physical examination by a reputable physician designated by the local school authorities; and the physician's certificate of physical fitness and mental alertness shall accompany the application for school bus driver's endorsement when presented to the Department of Public Safety.

B. Disqualification. Any school bus driver applicant, whose physical examination discloses communicable diseases or mental or physical conditions of intermittent or continuing nature that might reasonably affect his ability to operate a school bus, shall be denied a school bus driver's endorsement. One

or more of the following deficiencies will disqualify the applicant for a school bus driver's endorsement:

1. Eyesight. Visual acuity less than 20/40 (Snellen) in either eye without lenses or by correction with lenses; total form field of vision in the horizontal meridian less than 140 degrees in either eye (drivers requiring correction by lenses shall wear properly prescribed lenses at all times when driving).

2. Hearing. Hearing less than 30 db (10/20) in the better ear, with or without a hearing aid.

3. Inebriates or users of narcotics or drugs which may impair driving ability.

4. Coronary disease. Any indication of coronary or heart ailment likely to interfere with safe driving. Electrocardiogram is required when other findings indicate desirability.

5. Blood pressure over 160/90.

6. Lungs. Failure to have a satisfactory Mantoux or chest x-ray as required by Minnesota Health Department rules 7 MCAR §§ 1.327-1.328.

7. Any communicable disease as listed in Minnesota Health Department rules 7 MCAR § 1.316 and 7 MCAR § 1.326.

8. Loss of foot, leg, hand or arm, or other structural defect or limitation of movement likely to interfere with safe driving.

9. Any mental, nervous, organic, or functional disease likely to interfere with safe driving.

10. Diabetes unless controlled by diet or oral medication only.

11. Epilepsy or other episodic (Paroxysmal) periods of unconsciousness.

12. Use of any medication which the examining physician determines is likely to interfere with safe driving.

13. Applicant not of good general health.

C. Form of physician's certificate. The certificate to be used by the physician for reporting the physical condition of the applicant shall be one prescribed by the Department of Public Safety and may be obtained from that office or any driver examining station.

D. Periodic reexamination. Each school bus driver is required to take and pass a physical examination every two years prior to his birthday in order to retain his school bus driver endorsement. The Department of Public Safety will send physical examination certificates to school bus drivers. A school bus driver shall return the certificate, completed by the examining physician, along with a \$2 processing fee, on or before his birthday to the Department of Public Safety. Failure to pass and return the physical examination shall result in cancellation of the school bus driver endorsement from the Minnesota driver license.

E. Additional examinations. A physical examination may be required oftener upon demand of any school district from or to which such school bus driver shall be transporting school children. Such extra examination shall be paid for by the district demanding it.

5 MCAR § 1.0224 Driver background check. Before issuing a school bus driver's endorsement the Department of Public Safety shall determine whether the applicant has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude and shall also conduct a background check on the applicant's driving record.

5 MCAR § 1.0225 Requirements, renewal of driver license and school bus endorsement.

A. Requirements. Every four years a school bus driver applying for the renewal of his driver license and school bus endorsement shall pass a written examination containing only such material as the Commissioner of Public Safety deems necessary to determine if the licensee is entitled to retain the endorsement previously issued.

B. Noncompliance. Failure to comply with any of the requirements of this rule shall result in the cancellation or denial of the school bus driver's endorsement.