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1 Department of Public Safety
2 Safety Administration Division

3

4 Adopted Rules Governing Issuance and Display of School Bus
5 Inspections Certificates

6

7 Rules as Adopted

8 11 MCAR S 1.0020 Purpose and authority. The purpose of 11 MCAR
9 SS 1.0020-1.0024 is to establish rules governing the issuance
10 and display of school bus inspection certificates, consistent
11 with the provisions of Minn. Stat. S 169.451, and to establish a
12 point system to evaluate the effect on safety operation of any
13 variance from law detected during school bus inspection,
14 consistent with the mandate of the legislature.

15 11 MCAR S 1.0021 Definitions. For the purposes of 11 MCAR SS
16 1.0020-1.0024, the following terms shall have the meanings given
17 them:

18 A. State patrol. "State patrol" means the Minnesota State
19 Patrol, or an individual state trooper thereof or a State Patrol
20 Law Compliance Representative II (LCR II) employed pursuant to
21 Minn. Stat. S 299D.06.

22 B. Certificate. "Certificate" means a school bus inspection
23 certificate required by the provisions of Minn. Stat. S 169.451,
24 subd. 2.

25 C. Temporary certificate. "Temporary certificate" means a
26 distinctive certificate indicating a school bus was found to
27 have deficiencies of a nature not substantially affecting safety
28 of operation.

29 D. Rejection sticker. "Rejection sticker" means a sticker
30 signifying the vehicle to which it is affixed is not to be used
31 for school bus purposes. The size of the rejection sticker may
32 not be larger than the inspection certificate.

33 11 MCAR S 1.0022 Issuance of certificate. The certificate shall
34 be issued for an individual bus on an annual basis when the
35 state patrol has inspected the vehicle and the inspection

1 indicates that the school bus adequately complies with laws and
2 rules relating to construction, design, equipment and color of
3 school bus.

4 11 MCAR S 1.0023 Display of certificate.

5 A. Certificate to be affixed. The certificate issued for
6 each individual school bus shall be immediately affixed to the
7 school bus by the inspecting state patrol trooper or LCR II.

8 B. Certificate must be current. Only the certificate that
9 is valid for the current time period may be displayed.

10 C. Where displayed. The certificate shall be affixed in the
11 lower left corner of the main windshield of the school bus.

12 D. Rejection sticker, display, removal. A rejection sticker
13 shall be affixed to the lower left corner of the windshield of a
14 school bus that fails a school bus inspection. The sticker
15 shall be removed only upon authorization from a LCR II or
16 trooper who has determined that the defects that caused the
17 rejection have been corrected.

18 11 MCAR S 1.0024 Method of inspection.

19 A. Scheduled inspection. All school buses shall be
20 inspected for compliance with applicable laws and with rules of
21 the State Board of Education as stated in rules EDU 240-265 of
22 the State Board of Education.

23 B. Other inspections. In addition to scheduled annual
24 inspections and reinspections scheduled for the purpose of
25 verifying that deficiencies have been corrected, a trooper or
26 LCR II may conduct an unannounced inspection of any school bus
27 at the location where the bus is kept when not in operation.
28 This paragraph shall not be construed to limit the right or duty
29 of any law enforcement officer to inspect any vehicle upon
30 reasonable cause.

31 C. Point system, passing scores. The point system contained
32 in E. shall be used to assess the safety operation of all types
33 of school buses. Each bus will start with 100 points and each
34 defect shall be cause for points to be deducted in accordance
35 with point values established in E.

1 1. Any school bus with an inspection score of 96 to 100
2 shall be identified by affixing a distinctive school bus
3 inspection certificate to the windshield. Where an inspection
4 score of 96 is achieved, no inspection certificate shall be
5 affixed to the bus at the next annual inspection unless the
6 inadequacies from the previous inspection have been corrected.

7 2. Any school bus with an inspection score of 80 to 95
8 points shall pass the inspection and receive a temporary bus
9 inspection certificate of contrasting color or design or both.
10 This temporary certificate will be valid for 14 days following
11 inspection and all defects must be corrected. Pending
12 reinspection and certification of the bus by a trooper or LCR
13 II, a bus bearing a temporary certificate may be used to
14 transport pupils beyond the 14-day period if the inspection
15 sheet is signed by the owner or his designee certifying that all
16 of the defects are corrected. The signed inspection sheet shall
17 be carried in the first aid kit in the bus.

18 D. Non-passing scores. Any school bus with less than 80
19 points shall be deemed unsafe for the transportation of school
20 children. Any school bus which fails the inspection shall not
21 be used to transport school children until the defects are
22 corrected and an inspection certificate is issued and affixed to
23 the bus. Pending reinspection and certification of the bus by a
24 trooper or LCR II, a bus bearing a rejection sticker may be used
25 to transport pupils if the inspection sheet is signed by the
26 owner or his designee certifying that all of the defects are
27 corrected. The signed inspection sheet shall be carried in the
28 first aid kit in the bus.

29 E. Point system. In accordance with C., defects in the
30 equipment of a school bus listed in the left column will cause
31 the number of points specified in the right column to be
32 deducted from the starting score of 100.

1	Equipment Defect	Points
2		
3	1. Tires, front	each 25
4	2. Tires, rear	each 25
5	3. Exhaust	
6	a. Inadequate pipe	25
7	b. Leak in system	5
8	4. Muffler defective	5
9	(treat like leak in system)	
10	5. School bus color	
11	a. Not basic yellow or orange	25
12	b. Improper trim color	2
13	6. Required lettering	
14	a. No school bus sign (type I & II)	25
15	b. Stop at railway crossing (type III only)	25
16	c. Other lettering-nicknames	2
17	7. Stop arm (octagonal)	25
18	a. Reflective material cracked, scratched,	
19	or separated	5
20	b. Optional lamps on stop arm	2
21	8. Cross over mirror	
22	a. Missing or inoperable	25
23	b. If only line of vision is distorted,	
24	flaking or cracked	5
25	9. Headlamps out of adjustment	5
26	(allow mechanic time to adjust)	
27	10. Headlamp out	5
28	a. Both low beams out	25
29	b. One low beam out or either or both	
30	high beams out	each 5
31	11. Dimmer switch inoperable	5
32	12. Turn signals inoperable	25
33	13. Eight lamp warning lamp system	
34	a. Lamp system not working	25
35	b. Eight lamp indicator malfunctioning	10
36	14. Indicator lamps	

1	a.	High beam	2
2	b.	Turn signals	5
3	15.	Clearance lamps or optional white	
4		strobe lamp	each 1
5	16.	Rear lamps	
6	a.	One out	5
7	b.	Both out	25
8	17.	Stop lamps (minimum of 2 required)	
9	a.	Not working	each 15
10	b.	auxiliary stop lamp not working	each 2
11	18.	Back-up lamps	5
12	19.	Brakes-service (foot)	
13	a.	Not working	25
14	b.	Hose blistered but no	
15		fluid leakage	each hose 5
16	20.	Brakes-emergency (auxiliary)	25
17	21.	Defective or no warning horn	25
18	22.	Rear view mirror	
19	a.	Interior	15
20	b.	Exterior	25
21	c.	Slight crack, discolored or flaking	5
22	23.	Windshield wipers (not working at all)	25
23	a.	Wiper blade only	5
24	b.	One speed not working on left side or	
25		the right side not working	10
26	24.	Windshield glass	10
27	25.	Steering	25
28	a.	One king pin bad (less more than 1/2 inch)	15
29	b.	Two king pins bad (more than 1/2 inch)	25
30	26.	Driver seat belt, missing or not usable	25
31	27.	Entrance door, out of adjustment	5
32	28.	Interior lamps	
33	a.	Stepwell	2
34	b.	Other interior lamps (mention only)	0
35	29.	First aid kit	
36	a.	Missing	25

1	b. Short supply-per unit missing	1
2	30. Fire extinguisher, missing or in	
3	inoperable range	15
4	31. Flags and flares (electric or reflector)	
5	(for up to three missing)	5
6	32. Side glass and rear glass-each defect	5
7	33. Loose objects interior	each 2
8	34. Seats loose (floor mount)	each 5
9	35. Seat condition	each 2
10	36. Bus interior (cleanliness)	2
11	37. Carbon monoxide	25
12	38. Emergency exit, inoperable	25
13	a. Emergency lettering missing	2
14	b. Bad door gasket	5
15	39. Speedometer	10
16	40. Suspension, main leaf	25
17	a. Other than main leaf, 25 percent	
18	or more of the remaining leaves broken	25
19	b. Other than main leaf, less than	
20	25 percent broken	10
21	c. Loose or leaking shocks	10
22	41. Wheels	25
23	a. One stud nut missing if less than	--
24	20 percent of stud nuts on wheel	10
25	b. 20 percent or more of stud nuts	
26	are missing on wheel	25
27	42. Body condition	2
28	a. Hazardous protuberance or sharp edge	25
29	b. Two cross members bad, must be replaced	2
30	c. Cross members rusted, to be written up	0
31	43. Drive shaft guard	25
32	44. Frame	25
33	45. Heater Defroster fan or heaters in	each 5
34	----- excess of one in multiple heater buses -----	
35	46. Battery	10
36	47. Body mounting	10

1 48. Fuel system

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