

**Registry of Motor Vehicles
Proposed Changes to Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations
March 2010**

Proposed changes to 540 CMR 21.01

21.03: Vehicle Inspection Procedures

(1) The Inspector shall reject, and issue a Certificate of Rejection for, any vehicle that fails to satisfy any one of the following requirements:

(a) A Pupil Transport Vehicle (7D) must be a passenger vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight of less than 10,000 lbs.

(b) Vehicle Color. All newly registered vehicles manufactured on or after July 1, 2012 shall be National School Bus Yellow. All newly registered pre-owned vehicles registered after July 1, 2014 shall be National School Bus Yellow. All remaining vehicles shall be National School Bus Yellow by July 1, 2015.

(c) Identification. All vehicles shall conspicuously on both sides of the vehicle, display, in lettering, not less than four inches square, on such motor vehicles the name and address of the owner thereof.

(aa) Back up Warning Alarm. All vehicles shall be equipped with an audible back up alarm. This alarm shall be located behind the rear axle.

(ee) Additional Required Equipment. The vehicle shall carry a first aid kit, body fluid clean up kit, two chock blocks, seat belt cutter, fire/evacuation blanket (wheelchair vehicles only), fire extinguisher, and ~~flares in compliance with the United States Motor Vehicle Department of Transportation Safety Standard and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., No. 125.~~three reflective triangles.

(g) School Bus Light Indicator. Such indicator must be equipped with a continuous warning light(s) readily visible to the driver to indicate school bus lights are activated.

(h) Child Check Mate. The child check mate control shall be installed on all newly registered vehicles effective July 1, 2011. The child check mate control shall be located in the rear most seating compartment.

Proposed changes to 540 CMR 2.15

(2A)General Qualifications for School Bus Operators. A person seeking a school bus operator's certificate shall submit such application and additional information as may be required by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. In addition to satisfying all requirements established by M.G.L. c. 90, § 8A, in order to obtain and retain a school bus operator's certificate, a person must:

- (1) be the holder of a valid Massachusetts license issued under authority of M.G.L. c. 90, § 8.
- (2) be competent by reason of driving performance and experience or training, to operate properly and safely the type of school bus which the person will be required to operate;
- (3) be familiar with the law, rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of motor vehicles;
- (4) be able to read, write and speak the English Language;
- (5) pass a skills test in which the person operates a school bus, equipped as provided in M.G.L. c. 90, § 7B and 540 CMR 7.00, over a definite course or courses designated by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or his designee. As part of the test, the operator shall be required to demonstrate his ability to operate the school bus and the safety equipment and devices with which said bus is equipped; and the ability to start, stop, back, park the bus and to turn the bus around in a safe and proper manner, or perform any other movement as required by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or his designee; and
- (6) satisfy the medical qualifications in 540 CMR 2.15(3).

(2B)General Qualifications for School Pupil Transport Operators. A person seeking a school pupil operator's certificate shall submit such application and additional information as may be required by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles

- (1) be the holder of a valid Massachusetts license issued under authority of M.G.L. c. 90, § 8.**
- (2) be competent by reason of driving performance and experience or training, to operate properly and safely the type of vehicle which the person will be required to operate;**
- (3) be familiar with the law, rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of motor vehicles;**
- (4) be able to read, write and speak the English Language;**
- (5) satisfy the medical qualifications in 540 CMR 2.15(3);**
- (6) will complete minimum of two hours of pre-service training prior to receiving certificate, company owner or designee will be responsible for overseeing both in-service and pre-service training and records;**
- (7) will complete minimum of eight hours of in-service training per year (ten hours first year), company owner or designee will be responsible for overseeing both in-service and pre-service training and records;**
- (8) for each school pupil driver training course conducted the company owner or designee shall maintain:**
 - (a) a separate permanently bound book with pages consequently numbered, containing: 1. an initial page headed by the beginning date of the training program, the company owner or designee's name and signature**

and each trainees name and address accompanied by the notation pre-service or in-service to indicate the type of training to be conducted and 2. a successive page for each lesson showing the date, time, topic, length of time and location of each lesson and including the signature of every trainee in attendance shall sign the page immediate prior to the commencement of each lesson.

(b) An individual card file or computer record for each trainee including the trainees name, address, date of birth, and the date, topic, length of time and location of every lesson received. Training records shall be maintained for at three years. Such records must be available during normal business hours for examination by authorized persons from the registry of motor vehicles or law enforcement.

(c) Upon written request the custodian of the records required to be maintained by 540 CMR 2.15 shall provide any trainee with a copy of his or her individual training record.

(9) upon application for a school pupil transport certificate consent is implied for pre-employment, random and probable cause drug and alcohol testing. It is mandated that documentation of these records be kept on file.

540 CMR 2.16

2.16: Evacuation Plan for School Pupil Transport Vehicles

(1) Evacuation Plan. Every school pupil transport vehicle is required to have an evacuation plan that must remain in the vehicle. All staff should review these plans bi annually.