

Know Your Facts

➔ Motorcoach Companies

- Must be **registered** with the **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**.
- Must maintain their vehicles and **inspect them regularly**.
- Must have a minimum of **\$5 million liability insurance** coverage.
- Must comply with all other **federal and state safety requirements**.

➔ Motorcoach Drivers' Hours of Service

Many drivers are using **electronic logging devices** and **all drivers will be using them by December 31, 2017**. These devices are tamper proof and keep strictly to the hours of service rules. The device can even show you how much driving time remains for your driver.

Drivers **may not**:

- Drive more than 10 hours without at least 8 consecutive hours off
- Be on duty more than 15 hours (including driving) without at least 8 consecutive hours off
- Work more than:
 - 60 hours in 7 days, or
 - 70 hours in 8 days
- Drive a motorcoach without a valid **Commercial Driver's License** with a **Passenger Endorsement** and a **valid medical certificate** uploaded to their license.



➔ Don't Break Rules as a Planner — Beware of New Driver Coercion Rules

- Coercion occurs when you threaten to withhold work from, take employment action against, or otherwise punish a driver for refusing to operate in violation of FMCSA regulations.
- Adding an extra stop on your itinerary could cause a driver to violate the hours of service.
- Offering a tip or other pay to encourage the driver to break the rules is driver coercion.
- Drivers have up to 90 days to report coercion violations. **Penalties can run up to \$16,000.**



Download the SaferBus Mobile App - Know Before You Go, Check Company Records

Call with Questions:

ABA
AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION
American Bus Association
Phone: 202-842-1645
Web: www.buses.org

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Phone: 1-800-832-5660
Web: www.fmcsa.dot.gov

Before You Hire a Motorcoach Company

Not all motorcoach companies are the same. Safe, well-run and well-maintained companies with expertly trained personnel should be your first choice!

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➔ Don't Forget About ADA!

- For charter transportation, **at least 48 hours notice** must be provided to the motorcoach company for a passenger needing a mobility aid such as a wheelchair.
- Most motorcoaches can only handle **2 wheelchair positions** safely.
- If the operator must subcontract the accessible service, **no additional cost** may be passed on to the customer for this service.
- Wheelchair lifts do **have a weight limit** for their safe operation (600/660 lbs, passenger + chair), so check with your carrier. Only a wheelchair is required to be accommodated on board and the securement positions are specifically designed for them. Other mobility aids may be safely stored in the baggage bay.



➔ Chartering Party Responsibilities—Be Sure to Use This Safety Checklist!

- Know the trip plan and **final itinerary**, and make sure it is in compliance with the driver's **"hours of service regulations."**
- Know the motorcoach company and drivers.
- Check with the company regarding any **travel policies** they may have that may impact your trip.
- Effectively **communicate** with the motorcoach company prior to, and with the driver during, the trip.
- Review the **trip itinerary** and resolve any issues before the trip begins.
- Allow **sufficient time** for the driver and group leader to review the itinerary and address any concerns.
- Discuss any **itinerary changes** with the motorcoach company during the trip.
- Have a **pre-determined meeting place** for your pick-up. Consider a secondary pick-up location in case of emergency.
- Make sure you have a **contact number** for the driver or the company dispatch.

➔ How to Choose and Work with a Safe Motorcoach Company—Safety Checklist

- Obtain their USDOT **number** and check their FMCSA **safety rating** at www.saferys.org.
- Ask to review the **pre-trip safety briefing** message.
- Check if the company has someone **accessible 24/7** for handling contingencies and emergencies.
- Ask for a copy of their insurance document that all for-hire carriers of passengers must maintain and file with DOT.
- **Visit and inspect** the prospective motorcoach company's office and maintenance facilities. **Meet the management.**
- Ask if the company has a **driver drug and alcohol testing program** which complies with DOT regulations.
- Ask if the company **subcontracts** with others for equipment or drivers. If so, be sure to know who those companies are and if they are in compliance with DOT regulations.
- Ask if the company performs driver **background checks**. Some states and many school districts require them, although there is currently no federal requirement for them.
- Federal regulations **prohibit drivers from texting or using hand-held mobile phones** while driving. Ask if the company has a policy against mobile device use.

In the event of an accident, the chartering party, in addition to the bus company, could be held both civilly and criminally negligent.