### 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.



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:**

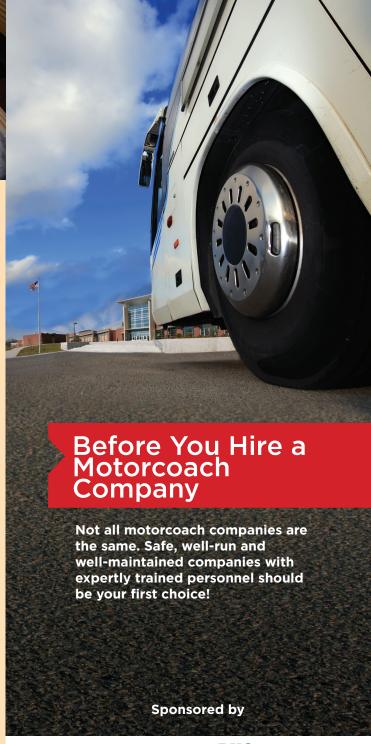


AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION

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











- 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 accomodated 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.safersys.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.