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

All U.S. motorcoach drivers are now required to use electronic logging devices. 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. There are also different hours of service rules for Mexico and Canada.

U.S. Motorcoach 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 certain rules.
- Adding an extra stop on your itinerary could cause a driver to violate the hours of service rules.
- Offering a tip or other pay to encourage the driver to break the rules is driver coercion.
- The driver should inform you if your itinerary changes could break any rules, and a good planner should also ask to make sure.
- 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

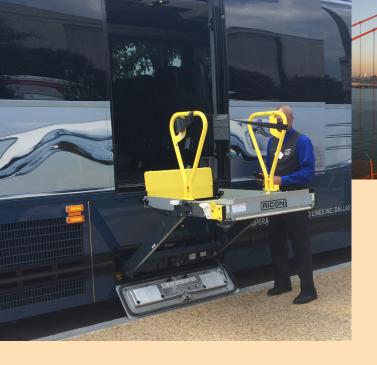
Phone: 202-842-1645 **Web:** www.buses.org

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Phone: 1-800-832-5660











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.
- Wheelchair lifts do have a weight limit for their safe operation (660 lbs, passenger + chair). 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.
- 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 and the company dispatch.
- Ask the company if their buses are equipped with seat beats.



- 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.



Travel Safely!