

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:


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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➔ 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.

➔ 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.

➔ 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.

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