

STATE OF UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



UTAH SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION NON-FACILITY ENTITIES



MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY TTB INSPECTION TO BE VALID

EFFECTIVE November 1, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

In the 2020 Utah legislative session, amendments to the school bus inspection requirements were adopted (These amendments are clearly itemized in H.B.143 and corresponding Utah code 53-8-211).



The new requirements for educational entities (school districts, charter schools, private schools, and Utah schools for the deaf and blind) are as follows:

- A school bus operated by an educational entity in this state is required to pass a safety inspection annually.
- Educational entities shall perform safety inspections on the buses they operate in accordance with the rules made by the division (Utah Department of Public Safety – Utah Highway Patrol).
- Educational entities must have a comprehensive school bus maintenance plan approved by the division (Utah Department of Public Safety – Utah Highway Patrol). Educational entities shall include provisions for:
 - Maintaining school bus drivers' hours of service records;
 - Requiring school bus drivers to maintain vehicle condition reports;
 - Maintaining school bus maintenance and repair records; and validating that defects discovered during the inspection process have been corrected prior to returning a school bus to service.
- Educational entities may not operate any vehicle found to have mechanical or other defects that would endanger the safety of passengers and the public until the defects have been corrected.
- Motor vehicles operated by educational entities, and not meeting the criteria of a school bus, are subject to section 53-8-205.

The division (Utah Department of Public Safety – Utah Highway Patrol) shall perform the following validating functions:

- The division shall audit school bus safety operations of each educational entity performing inspections to ensure compliance. The audit may include both a formal examination of the education entity's inspection records and a random physical inspection of buses that have been safety inspected by the educational entity.

- The division shall perform random safety inspections annually on a minimum of 20% of the school buses operated by educational entities and on 100% of the school buses operated by an educational entity when inspections conducted result in an out-of-service failure rate as determined by the division.
- The division shall verify that defects discovered during an inspection have been corrected.
- The division shall make publicly available the results of audits/inspections.

These new requirements will take effect on January 1, 2021.

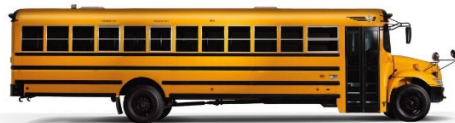
This document is intended to aid and assist certified inspectors in determining the status of a school bus when a critical safety component/item fails to operate properly, fails to operate as the manufacturer intended, or fails to meet federal and/or state standards.

INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION



All educational entity technicians/inspectors who participate in the School Bus Inspection Program are required to be certified. Certification consists of the following:

- Obtaining an operational knowledge of the contents of this document (electronic copies of this document will be made available to each educational entity).
- Passing a certification test with a score of 80% or greater (tests will be made available to educational entity technicians/inspectors by the division).
- Certified inspectors will be required to re-certify every five years.



SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION COMPONENTS/ITEMS

Note: The Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB) is defined as a bus that is sold for purposes that do not include transportation between home and school for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Because the bus is not intended for roadside picking up and dropping off of children, they are exempt from the following traffic control devices:

- Stop arms.
- Overhead loading lights.
- School bus yellow coloring and yellow retroreflective sheeting.
- Required identification Markings (i.e. "School Bus" front and rear).

Other than the exemptions previously listed, a MFSAB is required to meet all requirements in the school bus crashworthiness standards, all other requirements in the school bus crash avoidance safety standards, all post-crash school bus standards (NHTSA 49 CFR 571) and State of Utah requirements itemized in this document when inspected.

Due to the requirements of 53-8-211.5, only buses that meet the requirements of a school bus or multi-function school activity bus should be inspected.

EXTERIOR:

When inspecting the exterior of a school bus, the inspector shall inspect the following items for proper operation and condition:

LIGHTING

Out of Service when: Any light does not emit the required color.

Back-Up Lamps

Violation:

Any back up lamp that is missing, defective or inoperable not resulting in an out-of service condition. 393.11



Clearance Lamps/Triple ID Lamps

Violation:

- Any exterior clearance or triple ID lamp missing, defective or inoperable.

Headlamps

Out of Service when: (393.11) and (393.9)

- Does not have at least one operable low beam headlight on each side of the bus (two total).

License Plate Lamp

Violation: (393.11) and (393.9) Local laws requirement.

- Any license plate lamp missing, defective or inoperable not resulting in an out-of service condition.

Overhead Loading Lamps

Violation:

- Any lens is cracked or broken not resulting in an out-of-service.

Out of Service when:

- Any overhead loading light that is inoperable.
- Any loading light or stop arm that remains in an activated position after being deactivated.
- Any loading light that is not the required color.
- Note: LED light assemblies are considered inoperable if less than 50% of diodes are illuminated.

Step Well Lamps

Violation:

- Any interior or exterior step well lamp missing, defective or inoperable.

Stop Arm Lamps

Violation:

- Any stop arm lamps missing, defective, or inoperable, not resulting in an out-of-service condition.

Out of Service when:

- Any stop arm that fails to activate with overhead lights.
- Any stop arm that remains in an activated position after being deactivated.
- Any stop arm of stop sign that is not the required color.
- Note: LED light assemblies are considered inoperable if less than 50% of diodes are illuminated.

Brake/ Tail Lamps

Violation:

- Any tail or brake lamp that is missing, defective or inoperable not resulting in an out-of service condition.

Out of Service when:

- Does not have at least one operable tail lamp on each side of the bus (two total).
- Does not have at least one operable brake light on each side of the bus (two total).

Turn Signals/ Hazard Lamps

Out of Service when: (393.11)

- Any inoperable turn signal - front or rear.
- Any inoperable hazard warning light – front or rear.

REFLECTORS

Reflective Tape/ Reflectors

Violation: (393.11)

- Any required reflector or reflective material missing or defective.
- Also see “emergency exit markings”.



MARKINGS

Color

Out of Service when:

- Bus is any color other than school bus yellow (Does not include a bus that meets the definition of a multifunction school activity bus).

Emergency Exit Markings

Violation when:

- Any emergency exit not properly labeled and marked both inside and outside the vehicle as specified in (49 CFR 571.217).
 - Each school bus emergency exit provided in accordance with S5.2.3.1 shall have the designation “Emergency Door” or “Emergency Exit,” as appropriate, in letters at least 5 centimeters high (two inches), of a color that contrasts with its background.
 - For emergency exit doors, the designation shall be located at the top of, or directly above, the emergency exit door on both the inside and outside surfaces of the bus. The designation for roof exits shall be located on an inside surface of the exit, or within 30 centimeters (twelve inches) of the roof exit opening.
 - For emergency window exits, the designation shall be located at the top of, or directly above, or at the bottom of the emergency window exit on both the inside and outside surfaces of the bus.
 - Concise operating instructions describing the motions necessary to unlatch and open the emergency exit shall be located within 15 centimeters (six inches) of the release mechanism on the inside surface of the bus. These instructions shall be in letters at least 1 centimeter (half inch) high and of a color that contrasts with its background. Examples: (1) Lift to Unlatch, Push to Open (2) Turn Handle, Push Out to Open
 - Each opening for a required emergency exit shall be outlined around its outside perimeter with a retroreflective tape with a minimum width of 2.5 centimeters (one inch) and either red, white, or yellow in color, that when tested under the conditions specified in S6.1 of Standard No. 131 (49 CFR 571.131), meets the criteria specified in Table 1 of that section.
 - On the inside surface of each school bus with one or more wheelchair anchorage positions, there shall be a label directly beneath or above each “Emergency Door” or “Emergency Exit” designation specified by paragraph (a) of S5.5.3 of this standard for an emergency exit door or window. The label shall state in

letters at least 25 mm (one inch) high, the words "DO NOT BLOCK" in a color that contrasts with the background of the label.

School Bus Markings

Violation when: (390.21)

- NO district name or school bus markings as required.
- Bus number is not clearly visible on all four sides.
- Privately owned buses must have company name, DOT number and registered weight clearly marked.

TIRES AND WHEELS

Tire Tread/Wear

Violation:

- Studded snow tires in violation of UCA 41-6a-1636 (Permitted between October 15th and March 31st).

Out of Service when: (392.2) and (393.75)

- Any steering axle tire that measures less than 4/32" in any major tread groove.
- Any drive axle tire that measures less than 2/32" in any major tread groove.
- Any tire contacts any part of the frame, body or suspension components.
- Dual tires are found to be in contact with adjacent tire.

Tire Damage/Cut

Violation:

- Any tire found to have a foreign item embedded in it (i.e. screw, nail etc.).

Out of Service when: (393.75).

- Any sidewall that is cut, worn or damaged to the extent that any ply cords are exposed.
- Any observable bump, bulge, or knot related to sidewall or tread separation.
- EXCEPTION: A bulge due to a section repair is allowed not to exceed 3/8 inch in height. This repair may sometimes be identified by a blue triangular label in the immediate vicinity.

Load Rating/Type

Out of Service when: (393.75)

- Not of proper type; including tire load rating, mismatched tire type/size, etc.
- Tire marked with restrictive markings such as; “Not for Highway Use” which would exclude use on public highways.
- Re-grooved, recapped or retreaded tire on steering axle.

Tire Pressure

Out of Service when: (393.75(a)(3))

- Tire is flat or has noticeable leak (Flat means 50% or less than recommended pressure.)

Wheels/Fasteners

Out of Service when: (393.205)

- Any wheel /rim is cracked, improperly seated, damaged or welded.
- Any nuts, bolts, studs or wheel fasteners are broken, missing, damaged or loose.
- Any visible elongated bolt/stud holes. 393.205(b).

Spoke (Dayton) Wheels

Out of Service when:

- Any spoke (Dayton Style) wheel in use on a school bus registered in the State of Utah.

Hubs

Violation:

- Any leaking inner or outer hub seal not resulting in an out of service.

Out of Service when:

- Any axle bearing cap is missing or broken allowing an open view into hub assembly.
- Smoking from wheel hub assembly due to bearing failure. (396.3(a) (1)).
- When any wheel seal is leaking. This must include evidence of wet contamination of the brake friction material and accompanied by evidence that further leaking will occur.
- Lubricant is leaking from hub and is present on the wheel surface accompanied by evidence that further leaking will occur.
- No visible or measurable amount of lubricant showing in hub.

EXTERIOR BODY

Battery Securement

Violation: (393.30)

- Batteries not secured as designed by bracket or other method.
- Signs of leaking or excessive corrosion.

Bumpers

Out of Service when: (393.203)

- Either front or rear bumper(s) are loose, missing or damaged creating a hazard.
- Altered creating a snag or entrapment hazard.

Cargo Door /Hood Securement/Other Door

Out of Service when: (393.203)

- Any door that does not open and close properly.
- Door control handle does not lock in the closed position.
- Any engine, battery or other door that is not properly secured.

Damage/Snag Hazard

Out of Service when: (393.203)

- Any school bus body part that is loose, torn, dislocated or protruding from the surface of the bus, creating a hazard.

License Plate

Violation:

- License plate is not securely fastened.
- All issued license plates not displayed. (1 Front/1 Rear)
- If only issued one license plate is issued such as "Apportioned" or newly registered buses; no violation for only one displayed.

Tractor Trailer Bus (TTB) and School Bus Inspection Sticker

Violation:

- Expired annual inspection (TTB) or sticker not affixed.
- State School Bus inspection sticker is not affixed or expired.

EXTERIOR MIRRORS AND WINDOWS

Rearview/Convex Mirrors

Out of Service when: (393.80)

- Any mirror required to provide the driver with the entire field of view is missing, damaged, clouded or otherwise obscured so as to place children in a hazardous position.
- Any crossover mirror system or portion thereof that fails to hold a set adjustment.
- Any crossover mirror directed to view any area other than for which they were intended; or any part of the required field of vision is obscured or not visible from the driver's seated position.
- Any broken mirror (inside or outside) that would create a hazard in or around the bus.



Windshield/Windows

Out of Service when:

- Any window or glass that is broken, creating a hazard (inside or outside).
- Any window, windshield or glass not of an approved type.
- Any window, windshield or glass that is missing.
- Windshield or windows to the left/right of the driver that are damaged, or in such condition that obstructs/interferes with driver's view (chips-clouding-cracks-sandpits-distortion-etc.). (393.60 (c)).



INTERIOR

When inspecting the interior of a school bus, the inspector shall inspect the following items for proper operation and condition:



INSTRUMENT PANEL/CONTROLS

ABS Warning

Violation: (393.55)

- ABS warning brake light remains on or does not function as required.

Air Pressure Gauge

Out of Service when:

Missing, inoperative or defective primary or secondary air pressure gauge (393.51).



Auxiliary Heater Unit

Out of Service when:

- Any component of an auxiliary heater system not properly secured.
- Any fluid leak from an auxiliary heater core assembly detected inside the passenger compartment.

Bus Pop-Off Valve/Parking Brake

- Parking brake pop off valve does not automatically set.



Defroster

Out of Service when: (393.70)

- Defrost is inoperable or does not blow air on the windshield as required.

Doors

Out of Service when: (393.203)

- The service door does not open or close properly.
- The door control handle does not lock in the closed position.
- The door is equipped with a padlock or similar non-OEM locking device (excludes interlock systems).

Horns

Violation: (393.81)

- Does not have at least one horn that is inoperable.

Low Air Pressure Warning /Park Brake Indicator

Out of Service when: (393.51(c)) and 396.3 (a) (1)).

- Low pressure warning device missing, inoperative or does not operate between 45 and 70 PSI. Note: If either an audible or visual warning device is working as required, the bus should not be placed out-of-service.
- Parking brake warning light fails to function as designed.

Windshield Wipers/Washers

Violation:

- No washer fluid

Out of Service when:

- Any wiper or washer system that is inoperative, missing or damaged to the extent that renders it ineffective on the either side. (393.78 (a) (b)).
- Note: It is not OOS if washer fluid bottle is empty, but all other components function properly.

SEATS



Seats/Barriers/Spacing

Violation when:

- Any seat, cushion or barrier that is loose or damaged not resulting in an out-of-service condition.

Out of Service when:

- Any seat frame, cushion or barrier that is completely detached from the structure to which it is designed to be secured (must be completely separated from attachment point to be OOS).
- Any seat or barrier material(s) that are defective or missing which compromise the safety or the compartmentalization and occupant protection.
- Any seat assembly or barrier spacing that fails to comply with (571.222.).

Driver's Seat Restraint /Adjustment

Out of Service when: (393.93)

- Driver seat is not securely fastened to vehicle or fails to adjust/maintain proper adjustment.
- Any part of the driver's safety restraint system missing, not properly installed, or so defective as to prevent proper securement/restraint.

Wheelchair (inspected only by district personnel)

Out of Service when:

- Wheelchair lift is inoperable or does not function as designed.
- Any hydraulic line leaking during lift operation.
- Wheelchair securement missing, improperly secured, loose or damaged.
- Any required wheelchair restraint system not in compliance with FMVSS No. 122.

INTERIOR BODY

Electrical Wiring

Out of Service when: (393.28)

- Electrical Cable insulation is chafed, frayed, damaged, burnt, or causing bare cable to be exposed.
- Missing or damaged protective grommets insulating electrical cables through metal compartment panels
- Broken or unsecured mounting of electrical components
- Electrical cables unsupported, hanging or missing clamps that may cause a chafing or frayed condition (393.28) (396.3(a) (1)).

Floor

Out of Service when:

- Any floor condition that creates a hazard (integrity, tripping, slipping, etc.).

Hand Rails

Violation when:

- A loose handrail not resulting in an OOS condition.

Out of Service when:

- Any handrail that is missing or loose to the extent that a gap is created between mounting surfaces, thus causing a situation where an occupant's clothing, backpack, etc. could be snagged.
- Handrail does not meet OEM specifications.

Interior Panels

Out of Service when:

- Any panel (ceiling, side, wheel well, etc.) protruding, having sharp edges or not properly secured to the extent that it may cause injuries.

Prohibited Liquids/Materials

Out of Service when:

- **Gasoline, diesel, propane, motor oil, power steering fluid, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, windshield wiper fluid, brake fluid, starting fluid (ether) or any other liquid or gas substance used in the mechanical operation of the school bus when located in the passenger compartment.**
- (NOTE: All other potentially hazardous materials not associated with the mechanical operation of the school bus will be determined and stored at the discretion of the LEA. Items located during UHP inspections that are of potential concern, but not amounting to an OOS condition, will be noted on the inspection report and the LEA notified.)

Step Well Integrity

Out of Service when:

- Any part of the step well or support structure is damaged.
- Any condition that creates hazard (tripping, slipping, etc.).

INTERIOR MIRRORS/WINDOWS

Interior Mirrors

Out of Service when:

- Interior mirror(s) are missing or damaged or are not constructed with rounded corners and protected edges. 6" X 16" minimum in size for type "A" buses and 6" X 30" minimum in size for type "C" and "D" buses
- Mirrors are not laminated or tempered.

Posters/Markings/ Decorations

Out of Service when:

- Any poster, markings or decorations forward of the first row of occupants seating that obstructs any window, mirror or required markings (emergency exit markings, emergency equipment markings, etc.).
- Any poster, marking or decoration that obstructs required markings or creates a hazard.

Side/Rear Windows

Out of Service when:

- Any glass that is broken or missing which creates a hazard to any occupant.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Body Fluid Kit

Violation when:

- Any bus not equipped with a body fluid clean-up kit.

Fire Extinguisher

Out of Service when: 393.95

- Fire Extinguisher is discharged, missing, unsecured or not readily accessible for use within the driver compartment.

First Aid Kit

Violation when:

- Any bus not equipped with a first aid kit.

Triangles

Violation when: (393.95)

- Missing one or more of the three required emergency triangles.

AISLE EMERGENCY EXITS

Aisle Clearance/Obstruction/Center Strip

Out of Service when:

- Aisle does not have required clearance.
- Aisle or exit access is obstructed by any object.
- Center aisle strip is missing, damaged or not properly secured creating a hazard (integrity, tripping, slipping, etc.).

Exit Obstruction

Out of Service when:

- Any emergency exit that is equipped with a padlock or similar non-OEM locking device (excludes interlock systems).
- Aisle or exit access is obstructed by any object.
- Any self-retracting flip seat that does not retract on its own.

Window /Door Markings

Violation when:

- Any emergency exit not properly labeled and marked both inside and outside the vehicle as specified in (49 CFR 571.217).
- Also see “emergency exit markings”.

Window/Door Buzzers

Violation when:

- Any emergency exit window buzzer is inoperable.

Out of Service when:

- Any audible warning device on an emergency exit door is defective or fails to function (defective emergency window warning device is not an OOS condition).

Window/Door Instructions

Violation when:

- Any emergency exit marking or instructions missing, obscured or illegible.
- Also see “emergency exit markings”.

LIGHTS

Dome Lights

Violation:

- Any interior dome lamp missing, defective or inoperable.