



MOTORCOACH FACTS

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is committed to protecting the traveling public and saving lives. In service to this commitment, FMCSA is implementing strong safety measures that make motorcoach travel safer for passengers and everyone on our roadways.

Stronger Safety Enforcement

- The FMCSA has significantly stepped-up its safety enforcement of motorcoaches and other commercial passenger carriers. For example, since the release of the original Motorcoach Safety Action Plan, FMCSA's imminent hazard out-of-service orders increased from 0 in 2009 to 28 in 2012. This is when a passenger carrier is forced to immediately cease all transportation services based on serious safety violations that pose an imminent hazard to public safety.
- Over the past three years, motorcoach inspections have increased 15%, from 29,401 in 2009 to 33,684 in 2012.
- In 2012, there were 33,684 motorcoach inspections, resulting in 880 motorcoach drivers and 1,831 motorcoach vehicles being placed out of service.
- Since 2009, FMCSA's passenger carrier vetting program continues to reject approximately 20% or more of all motorcoach companies applying for operating authority.
- FMCSA has clarified the definition of passenger carrier within Safety Measurement System (SMS) to include for-hire motor carriers that operate 9-15 passenger capacity vehicles, and to exclude for-hire motor carriers that only operate 1-8 passenger capacity vehicles, private motor carriers that only operate 1-15 passenger capacity vehicles, and motor carriers with less than 2% passenger-carrying vehicles in their total vehicle fleet. These changes to SMS improve the focusing of resources to passenger carriers that are subject to FMCSA's safety oversight.

New Authority for Our Safety Priority

- MAP-21(Moving Ahead for the 21st Century) includes mandates for various motorcoach rulemakings and research projects on the following: crashworthiness of providers, crash avoidance features of motorcoaches, and improved oversight of motorcoach service providers. It grants FMCSA the authority to pursue the following to protect drivers and passengers, by requiring the Agency to:
 - Complete rulemaking on Electronic Logging Devices;
 - Undertake rulemaking considering mandating that states establish an annual inspection program for passenger carriers, and complete a rulemaking requiring new passenger carriers to undergo a full safety audit before receiving operating authority;



- Implement a number of new registration and operator safety mandates intended to improve motorcoach safety. These include developing a written proficiency exam for new operators and standards for a motorcoach driver notification system; and,
- Implement procedures to ensure each motorcoach carrier receives an updated safety rating each three years.

Consumer Outreach and Bus Safety Tools

- In March 2012, FMCSA unveiled its SaferBus iPhone/iPad application – a first-of-its-kind app that gives consumers a quick and free way to “Look Before You Book” at a bus company’s safety record and make smart safety decisions before buying a ticket, booking a trip or boarding a bus. . The recently updated SaferBus app includes a more user-friendly view of a bus line’s safety record and the changes made to the SMS.
- As of December 2012, the SaferBus App has been downloaded over 6,000 times with more than 60,000 searches conducted.
- To help design a “next generation” of mobile application or website, FMCSA is reaching out to current university students through the US DOT Motorcoach Safety Data Student Challenge. The challenge asks students to provide unique and creative insights by designing and submitting a new tool with inventive branding and usability. The last date to submit to the challenge is January 31, 2013.
- FMCSA’s “Think Safety: Every Trip, Every Time” safety checklist available online at www.fmcsa.dot.gov. This safety checklist helps consumers review a bus company's safety record, safety rating and USDOT operating authority status before buying a ticket or hiring a bus company for group travel. The checklist is available for download in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- To aid in enforcing standards to unsafe carriers, FMCSA has revitalized the National Consumer Complaint Database (NCCDB) at <http://nccdb.fmcsa.dot.gov>. Consumers can report complaints for Passenger Carrier violations on that site, or use FMCSA’s Consumer Safety Hotline (1-888-DOT-SAFT) to immediately report unsafe bus drivers or companies.

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