**PROPOSED PASSENGER BUS CURRICULUM**

**VEHICLE ORIENTATION (Theory and BTW)**

Training providers shall familiarize students with basic bus physical and operational characteristics including: overall height, length, width, ground clearances, rear overhang, GVW & GVWR, axle weights, tire ratings, mirrors, steer wheels, lighting, windshield, windshield wipers, engine compartments, basic electric system, and spare tire storage. Techniques for proper seat and mirror adjustments should also be taught.

**PRE-TRIP, IN-ROUTE, AND POST-TRIP INSPECTION (Theory and BTW)**

This unit shall both underscore the importance of pre-trip, in-route and post-trip inspections and teach the techniques for conducting such inspections for passenger buses and key components, including but not limited to: bus mechanical condition, tires, emergency exits, emergency equipment, bus interiors (including passenger seats and restrooms), driver and passenger seat belts, and mirrors. Additionally, student drivers shall be instructed in procedures for security-related inspections, including inspections for unusual wires or other abnormal visible materials, interior and exterior luggage compartments, packages or luggage left behind, and signs of tampering. Students shall be taught how to cycle accessible lifts and inspect them for functionality and defects.

**PASSENGER MANAGEMENT (Theory and BTW)**

In this unit, student drivers shall receive training on:

* Proper procedures for safe loading and unloading of passengers prior to departure, including rules concerning standing passengers and the Standee Line. 49 CFR 392.62 - Safe operation, buses.
* Procedures for dealing with disruptive passengers.

**BAGGAGE MANAGEMENT (Theory and BTW)**

In this unit, student drivers shall receive training on:

* Proper handling of passenger baggage and containers to avoid injuries,
* Procedures for scanning baggage and containers for prohibited items such as hazardous materials.
* Proper handling and securement of devices associated with ADA compliance including oxygen, wheeled mobility devices, and other associated apparatuses.

**RAILROAD CROSSINGS (Theory and BTW)**

This module shall instruct student drivers in applicable regulations, techniques and procedures appropriate to passenger buses for navigating railroad crossings.

**FUELING (Theory)**

Student drivers should be taught the benefits of avoiding refueling a bus while passengers are onboard, and the imperative of avoiding refueling in an enclosed space.

**EMERGENCY Procedures (Theory)**

In this unit, drivers shall be taught techniques for handling crashes, security breaches, fires, and other serious mishaps, including methods for communicating clear and concise instructions for evacuating a bus, rendering aid to passengers, and procuring emergency assistance from enforcement officials. Drivers also should be trained in their legal obligations and rights when engaging law enforcement officials on such occasions.

**ADA COMPLIANCE (Theory)**

Along with learning the proper operation of accessible equipment (lifts), student bus drivers shall be taught the applicable regulations and proper procedures for engaging persons with disabilities or special needs under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Training should not be limited to passengers with mobility issues, and should include instruction on dealing with passengers suffering from sight, hearing or cognitive impairment, and dealing with service animals. Drivers should receive sensitivity training and be familiar with applicable regulations (49 CFR 37(h)).

**HOURS OF SERVICE (Theory)**

Entry-level drivers shall be taught the hours-of-service regulations that apply to drivers for interstate passenger carriers, techniques for maintaining a logbook and operating electronic logging devices (ELDs) and the possible consequences of violations of such regulations. Entry-level drivers shall receive basic training in how to recognize the signs of fatigue, and basic fatigue countermeasures as a means to avoid crashes.

**DISTRACTED DRIVING (Theory)**

Entry-level drivers shall be taught FMCSA regulations which specifically prohibit interstate truck and bus drivers from texting or using hand-held mobile phones while operating their vehicles; and shall be instructed in the serious consequences of violations, including heavy fines, impacts on a motor carrier’s and/or driver’s Safety Measurement System (SMS) results, and/or driver disqualification.

**WEIGHT STATION OBLIGATIONS**

Student drivers shall be taught the weight-station rules that apply to buses and the fines applicable to drivers who unlawfully pass weight stations.

**PASSENGER SAFETY AWARENESS BRIEFING (Theory & BTW)**

Entry-level drivers shall be taught procedures for providing passengers with sufficient guidance to ensure compliance with on topics including: fastening seat belts, emergency exits, emergency phone contact information, fire extinguisher location, safely walking in the aisle when the bus is moving, and restroom emergency push button or switch.

**SECURITY AND CRIME (Theory)**

Entry-level drivers shall be taught basic techniques for recognizing and minimizing risks from criminal activities.

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE NORTH AMERICAN OUT-OF-SERVICE CRITERIA (Theory & range)**

Entry-level drivers shall be taught the applicable rules and regulations for conducting CVSA Level 1-5 inspections for buses, including the vehicle defects and driver conditions that can result in an out-of-service order, and consequences for violating out-of-service orders. Training should include providing trainees with a CVSA manual.

**PENALTIES AND FINES (Theory)**

Student drivers shall be taught the potential consequences of violations of driver-related rules, including adverse Safety Management Scores for the company, adverse impacts on Pre-employment Screening Program record for the driver; financial penalties for driver and carrier; and possible loss of the driver’s driving privilege.