

1. The bus shall contain a belt cutter for use in emergencies, including evacuations. The belt cutter shall be designed to prevent injuries during use and secured in a safe location.

13:20-49D.15 Wheelchair and other mobile seating device requirements

(a) A wheelchair or other mobile seating device shall be equipped with an occupant restraint belt and hand brake which is furnished and maintained by the owner.

(b) An electric powered wheelchair shall be equipped with gel-cel (non-liquid electrolyte) battery. Batteries with liquid electrolyte are not permitted in the passenger compartment of the bus.

SUBCHAPTER 49E. AUTOBUSES APPROVED FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRIOR TO MAY 21, 1993

13:20-49E.1 Scope of exceptions and exemptions

The exceptions and exemptions set forth in this subchapter shall apply to autobuses approved for school use by the New Jersey Department of Transportation prior to May 21, 1993.

Amended by R.1992 d.397, effective November 2, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2109(a), 24 N.J.R. 4069(a).

Added reference to Department of Transportation and effective date.

Amended by R.2005 d.24, effective January 18, 2005.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5483(a), 37 N.J.R. 321(a).

13:20-49E.2 Exceptions and exemptions

(a) The prohibition against advertisements of any kind on either the interior or exterior of the vehicle shall not apply.

(b) The seat requirements imposed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.3(w) shall not apply to longitudinal seats seating not more than four pupils.

(c) The entrance door and the emergency door with aisles leading to each shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirement for doors imposed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.3(d).

(d) The requirement imposed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.3(f) to have the words "Emergency Door" applied to the inside and outside of the emergency door shall not apply.

(e) In lieu of the lettering, Type I school vehicles that are operated by a privately or publicly owned local transit system and used for regular common carrier transit route service as well as special school route service shall meet the

requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.3(h), except as follows:

1. Such vehicles shall, while transporting children to and from school, be equipped with signs, located conspicuously on the front and back of the vehicle:

i. The sign on the front shall have the words "School Bus" printed in black letters not less than six inches high on a background of national school bus glossy yellow;

ii. The sign on the rear shall be at least ten square feet in size and shall be painted national school bus glossy yellow and have the words "School Bus" printed in black letters not less than eight inches high.

(f) The requirements for the main aisle and the aisle to the emergency door imposed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.3(a) shall not apply.

(g) The requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 for bumpers shall not apply.

(h) The window requirements imposed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.3(y) shall not apply.

(i) The color requirements imposed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:20-49.1 and 49.2(e) shall not apply.

Amended by R.1974 d.90, effective April 11, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 99(a), 6 N.J.R. 172(c).

Amended by R.1992 d.397, effective November 2, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2109(a), 24 N.J.R. 4069(a).

Deleted cross reference to obsolete rules and added cross reference to current rules in N.J.A.C. 6:21-5.

Amended by R.2005 d.24, effective January 18, 2005.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5483(a), 37 N.J.R. 321(a).

Rewrote the section.

13:20-49E.3 Certificate of inspection

(a) No autobus under jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation shall be used for school pupil transportation services, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 and under contract with a local board of education for transportation to and from school, unless such autobus is authorized on the certificate of inspection issued by the Department of Transportation.

(b) Owners or operators of buses approved by the Department of Transportation shall submit evidence of such approval to the county superintendent at such times as may be deemed necessary.

Amended by R.1992 d.397, effective November 2, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2109(a), 24 N.J.R. 4069(a).

Deleted obsolete reference to jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities and replaced with Department of Transportation.

13:20-49E.4 Inspection by county superintendent

(a) The county superintendent may inspect any bus approved by the Department of Transportation for any item not covered by the approval of that department and from which they are not specifically exempted by these rules.

(b) Whenever, in the opinion of the county superintendent, a bus chassis or body is outworn or in a dilapidated condition, it shall not be used for pupil transportation.

Amended by R.1992 d.397, effective November 2, 1992.
See: 24 N.J.R. 2109(a), 24 N.J.R. 4069(a).

Deleted obsolete reference to jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities and replaced with Department of Transportation.

SUBCHAPTER 49F. (RESERVED)**Subchapter Historical Note**

Subchapter 49F, Small Vehicle Standards, was repealed by R.2003 d.36, effective January 21, 2003. See: 34 N.J.R. 829(a), 35 N.J.R. 450(a).

SUBCHAPTER 49G. (RESERVED)**Subchapter Historical Note**

Subchapter 49G, Inspection, was repealed by R.2005 d.24, effective January 18, 2005. See: 35 N.J.R. 5483(a), 37 N.J.R. 321(a).

SUBCHAPTER 49H. (RESERVED)**SUBCHAPTER 50. STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED JANUARY 2006 AND THEREAFTER****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-5, 39:3B-10, 39:3B-24 and
Reorganization Plan No. 005-1998.

Source and Effective Date

R.2005 d.24, effective January 18, 2005.
See: 35 N.J.R. 5483(a), 37 N.J.R. 321(a).

13:20-50.1 Scope and purpose

(a) This subchapter shall be applicable to all motor vehicles registered in New Jersey originally designed by the

manufacturer to carry 10 or more passengers, excluding the driver, operated by, or under contract with, a public or governmental agency, or religious or other charitable organization or corporation, or privately operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school for secular or religious education, school-connected activity, day camp, summer day camp, nursery school, child care center, preschool center or other similar places of education. All such motor vehicles shall be registered as school buses in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3-19.2 and shall comply with the rules set forth in this subchapter and in N.J.A.C. 13:20-50A, 50B and 50C, and all applicable Federal standards. A motor vehicle shall not be used for the purposes set forth in this subsection unless it has been registered as a school bus in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3-19.2 and complies with the rules set forth in this subchapter and in N.J.A.C. 13:20-50A, 50B and 50C, and all applicable Federal standards.

(b) Each school bus shall be inspected twice each year by the Commission's School Bus Inspection Unit to ensure that such vehicle is in safe and proper operating condition. The time and location of the inspections shall be established by the Chief Administrator or his or her designee.

(c) The rules set forth in this subchapter and in N.J.A.C. 13:20-50A, 50B and 50C shall not apply to autobuses approved for school use and subject to inspection by the Commission's Commercial Bus Inspection and Investigation Unit unless otherwise provided.

(d) An autobus subject to inspection by the Commission's Commercial Bus Inspection and Investigation Unit that is used for the transportation of children to or from school shall display a certificate of inspection issued by the Commission indicating school use. An autobus is exempt from displaying a certificate for school use issued by the Commission when being used on a preset franchised route and schedule or chartered for school-connected activities.

(e) A parent or legal guardian under contract with a district board of education to transport only his or her own child or children shall not be required to possess a commercial driver license or to use a motor vehicle registered as a school bus.

(f) The rules set forth in this subchapter and in N.J.A.C. 13:20-50A, 50B and 50C shall apply to school buses with a January 2006 or later incomplete chassis manufacture date unless otherwise provided. School buses manufactured prior to January 2006 shall comply with the standards in effect when the school bus was manufactured or converted.

(g) All equipment and components required by this subchapter and by N.J.A.C. 13:20-50A, 50B and 50C shall be maintained in proper operating condition at all times.

Source and Effective Date

R.2005 d.24, effective January 18, 2005.
See: 35 N.J.R. 5483(a), 37 N.J.R. 321(a).

13:20-50A.1 Air cleaner

(a) The engine air intake cleaner system, including all duct tubing, shall be properly installed by the chassis manufacturer to meet the engine manufacturer's specifications.

(b) The engine air intake system for diesel engines shall have an air cleaner restriction indicator properly installed by the chassis manufacturer to meet the engine manufacturer's specifications.

13:20-50A.2 Axles

The front axle and rear differential, including suspension systems, shall have a GAWR at least equal to that portion of the load that may be carried in accordance with the chassis manufacturer's maximum GVWR.

13:20-50A.3 Brakes

(a) A brake system, including service brakes and parking brake, shall be provided.

(b) School buses using air in the operation of the brake system shall be equipped with a warning signal, readily audible or visible to the driver, that will emit a continuous warning when the air pressure available in the brake system is 60 pounds per square inch or less. The warning signal shall be capable of alerting the driver while the school bus is being operated. An illuminated gauge that will indicate to the driver the air pressure in the brake system in pounds per square inch shall be provided.

1. The brake system dry reservoir shall be safeguarded by a check valve or equivalent device so that in the event of failure or leakage in its connection to the source of compressed air, the stored dry air shall not be depleted by the failure or leakage.

(c) Except as otherwise provided for Type B school buses constructed on a cutaway chassis, Type B, C, and D school buses using a hydraulic-assist brake system shall be equipped with a back-up pump system and warning signal, readily audible or visible to the driver, that will emit a continuous warning in the event of a loss of fluid flow from the primary source or a failure of the back-up pump system. Type A school buses and Type B school buses constructed on a cutaway chassis using a hydraulic-assist brake system may be equipped in accordance with the chassis manufacturer's specifications.

(d) The brake lines, booster-assist lines, and control cables shall be protected from excessive heat, vibration, and corrosion and shall be installed in a manner so as to prevent chafing.

(e) The brake system shall be designed to permit the visual inspection of brake lining wear without the removal of any chassis components.

(f) The parking brake shall hold the school bus stationary, or to a limit of traction of the braked wheels, on a 20 percent grade under any condition of legal loading on a surface free of snow, ice, or loose material.

(g) When applied, the parking brake shall remain in the applied position with the capacity set forth in (f) above despite the exhaustion of the source of the energy used for the application of the parking brake or leakage of any kind.

(h) On Type A, B, C, and D school buses, the parking brake control shall be mounted in accordance with the chassis manufacturer's specifications to the right or left of the driver in a position that is easily accessible to the driver.

(i) The parking brake shall be equipped with a warning device visible to the driver that will indicate that the parking brake is engaged.

13:20-50A.4 Bumper, front

(a) A school bus shall be equipped with a front bumper. The front bumper shall be provided by the chassis manufacturer.

(b) The front bumper shall contain no sharp edges and shall be designed so as to prevent snagging.

(c) The front bumper shall be constructed of pressed steel channel or equivalent material. The front bumper shall be not less than eight inches high. The front bumper shall be black and shall extend beyond the forwardmost part of the body, grille, hood, and fenders of the school bus. The top line of the front bumper shall extend laterally to the outer edges of the fenders. Bumper brackets shall be secured to the bumper. Notwithstanding the front bumper requirements set forth in this subsection, the front bumpers on Type A school buses and Type B school buses constructed on a cutaway chassis may be in accordance with the chassis manufacturer's specifications.

(d) The front bumper, except breakaway bumper ends, shall be of sufficient strength to permit pushing another vehicle of equal GVW without permanent distortion to the bumper, chassis, or body.

(e) Type B, C, and D school buses may be equipped with tow eyes or hooks in accordance with the chassis manufacturer's specifications. Tow eyes or hooks shall be attached in a manner so as not to project beyond the front bumper.

13:20-50A.5 Clutch

The clutch torque capacity shall be equal to or greater than the engine torque output.

13:20-50A.6 Color

(a) The chassis, including the front bumper, shall be black.

(b) The body cowl, hood, and fenders shall be National School Bus Yellow. The hood may be black or nonreflective National School Bus Yellow.

(c) Wheels and rims shall be black, gray, white, chrome, silver, stainless steel, or National School Bus Yellow.

(d) The grille shall be gray, chrome, silver, stainless steel, or National School Bus Yellow.

13:20-50A.7 Drive shaft

A school bus shall be protected by a metal guard or guards around the circumference of the front half of the drive shaft to prevent the drive shaft from entering the passenger compartment through the floor or dropping to the ground if broken. If the drive shaft is manufactured in sections, each section of the drive shaft shall be protected by a metal guard or guards around its circumference.

13:20-50A.8 Electrical system

(a) School buses shall be equipped with a battery or batteries as specified by the chassis manufacturer.

1. The storage battery shall have a minimum cold cranking capacity rating equal to the cranking current required for 30 seconds at 0 degrees Fahrenheit and a minimum reserve capacity rating of 120 minutes at 25 amperes.

2. Battery cables shall have sufficient length to allow some slack.

(b) School buses shall be equipped with an alternator.

1. A Type A school bus shall have an alternator with a minimum output rating of 100 amperes per hour. A Type A school bus equipped with an electrical power lift and a Type B school bus shall have an alternator with a minimum output rating of 130 amperes per hour.

2. A Type C and D school bus shall have an alternator with a minimum output rating of 160 amperes per hour capable of producing a minimum of 50 percent of its maximum rated output at the engine manufacturer's recommended engine idle speed.

3. A school bus may be equipped with a direct-drive alternator in lieu of a belt-drive alternator. A belt-drive alternator shall be capable of handling the rated output capacity of the alternator with no detrimental affect on any other electrically-powered components or accessories.

(c) All wiring shall be of a standard color and number coding and shall conform to SAE Recommended Practice J1292 (October 1981), incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented. Multiplex wiring may be used.

1. The chassis shall be delivered to the school bus operator with a wiring diagram that coincides with the wiring of the chassis.

2. The chassis manufacturer shall install a readily accessible terminal strip or plug on the body side of the cowl, or in an accessible location in the engine compartment of school buses designed without a cowl. The terminal strip or plug shall contain the following terminals for the body connections:

i. Main 100 amperes body circuit;

ii. Taillamps;

iii. Right turn signal;

iv. Left turn signal;

v. Stoplamps;

vi. Back-up lamps; and

vii. Instrument panel lights that are rheostat-controlled by the headlamp switch.

13:20-50A.9 Exhaust system

(a) The exhaust pipe, muffler, and tailpipe shall be outside the school bus body compartment and shall be attached to the chassis.

(b) The exhaust system components shall not be installed in a location that is likely to result in the burning, charring, or damaging of the electrical wiring, the fuel supply, or any combustible part of the school bus. The exhaust system on a gasoline-powered chassis shall be properly insulated from the fuel system, including the fuel tank and fuel tank connections, by a securely attached metal shield at any point where an exhaust system component is 12 inches or less from the fuel tank or fuel tank connections. When a metal shield is required, the metal shield shall provide a minimum clearance of two inches between the exhaust system components and the electrical wiring, fuel tank, fuel tank connections, and/or combustible components.

(c) The tailpipe shall be constructed of a corrosion-resistant tubing material at least equal in strength and durability to 16-gauge steel tubing of equal diameter.

1. The exhaust system tailpipe shall terminate to the rear of all doors and windows designed to be opened for ventilation.

2. The exhaust system shall not discharge to the atmosphere immediately below an emergency exit, fuel tank, or fuel tank fill pipe.