

CHAPTER 53

AUTOBUSES

Authority

N.J.S.A. 27:1A-5, 27:1A-6, 27:25-8c, 48:2-12, 48:4-2.1a , 52:14D-6, and October 5, 1978 Executive Reorganization Plan.

Source and Effective Date

R.1997 d.116, effective February 13, 1997.
See: 29 N.J.R. 102(a), 29 N.J.R. 912(b).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1c, Chapter 53, Autobuses, expires on August 12, 2002. See: 34 N.J.R. 1327(b).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 53, Autobuses, became effective with Subchapter 1, Autobus Specifications for Van-Type Autobuses, adopted as R.1979 d.124, effective March 23, 1979. See: 11 N.J.R. 263(a). Subchapter 2, Autobus Specifications, was originally adopted by the Board of Public Utilities as N.J.A.C. 14:11-2, and was filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969. N.J.A.C. 14:11-2 was amended by R.1972 d.226, effective November 15, 1972; and R.1977 d.240, effective July 7, 1977. See: 4 N.J.R. 310(b); 9 N.J.R. 373(c). Pursuant to the Reorganization Plan for the Board of Public Utilities and the Department of Transportation (1978), and R.1982 d.30, N.J.A.C. 14:11-2 was recodified as N.J.A.C. 16:53-2, effective February 1, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 160(b). Subchapter 2, Special Equipment for Vehicles Used to Transport Passengers in Wheelchairs; Subchapter 4, Modified Interiors or Autobuses Used for Charter or Special Bus Operations; Subchapter 6, Autobus Specifications for Small Bus; Subchapter 7, Specifications for Special Autobus Type Recreational Vehicles; and Subchapter 8, Specifications for Sedan-Type Autobuses, were adopted as new rules; existing Subchapter 2 was recodified as Subchapter 3, Autobus Specifications; Subchapter 5, Certificates, was recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:11-3; and Subchapter 9, Public Liability Insurance, was recodified from 14:4-2, by R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 694(b). Amendments to Chapter 53 were adopted as R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 53 was readopted as R.1984 d.82, effective March 8, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 746(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 53 expired on March 19, 1989. Expired Chapter 53, including new Subchapter 10, Designated Fees for Autobus Inspections, was adopted as R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 53 was readopted as R.1994 d.346, effective June 13, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 1606(a), 26 N.J.R. 2798(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 53 was readopted as R.1997 d.116, effective February 13, 1997. See: Source and Effective Date.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. AUTOBUS SPECIFICATIONS FOR VAN-TYPE AUTOBUSES

16:53-1.1 Scope

(a) The Department of Transportation hereby adopts the rules and regulations relating to the safety of equipment as promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation (formerly ICC Motor Carriers Safety Regulations), presently set forth in Part 393, except as otherwise herein entitled "Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation", as amended. A copy of these regulations entitled "Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carriers Safety Regulations" may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20423.

(b) Any van now in operation or acquired prior to June 1, 1989 and for which the New Jersey Department of Transportation has issued a Certificate of Compliance may continue in service as presently designed, constructed and equipped.

(c) The following specifications apply to all vehicles described in (b) above in interstate or intrastate common carriers service subject to the Department's jurisdiction and for which a Certificate of Compliance of this Department is required.

(d) For purposes of this subchapter, a van shall be defined as a motor vehicle used in the transportation for hire having a seating capacity of 15 adult passengers or less, not including driver and comply with specifications of this subchapter. The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) shall not exceed 10,000 pounds.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.
Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Acquisition cutoff date changed from January 2, 1983 to June 1, 1989.

16:53-1.2 Dimensions

(a) The overall length of the vehicle, including bumpers, shall not exceed 25 feet.

(b) The overall width of the vehicle shall not exceed 84 inches, measured at the widest point of the body. Mirrors, fender moldings and other similar accessories shall not be included in determining body width.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

(a): "225 inches" changed to "25 feet"; (c) deleted.

16:53-1.3 Chassis and body construction

(a) The chassis and body construction shall be of sufficient size and strength to safely support the gross vehicle weight (GVW) and the allowable payload, as recommended by the chassis manufacturer.

(b) Axles, springs, tires and suspension assemblies shall be of sufficient capacity to support the manufacturer's maximum GVWR.

(c) The GVWR certified by the manufacturer, and the gross vehicle axle weight (GVAW) shall be indicated on a data plate affixed to the vehicle, readily visible. At no time shall the GVWR be exceeded.

(d) Altering of the wheel base or the standard chassis frame in any manner shall be permitted when work is performed by the chassis or unit manufacturer or by others on a Certification of Approval by the original manufacturer. Such certification is to contain a detailed description of the extension. An extension may be installed at the rear end of

the original chassis frame by the chassis manufacturer, or on the chassis manufacturer's Certificate of Approval of such extension.

(e) Body modifications, such as, raising of the roof and ceiling shall be performed by an established unit manufacturer or by others with certificate of approval by the original manufacturer. Accordingly, the GVWR shall be recertified to include vehicle modifications with the applicable data plate affixed to the vehicle.

(f) Roof modifications shall meet the requirements of the static test load code as set forth in regulation VESC 6-10 (Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission). A certificate stating that the requirements have been met must be presented at the time of inspection.

(g) The body shall be mounted on an appropriate chassis and shall be free of sharp or jagged edges.

(h) Front and rear bumper shall be provided, attached to the main chassis frame, of sufficient size and strength to permit the vehicle to be pushed or pulled without permanent distortion to bumper or chassis.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.

16:53-1.4 Equipment unit

(a) The vehicle shall be of the single unit type, with the motive power and passenger compartment mounted as one unit.

(b) Trailers of any type are prohibited.

16:53-1.5 Interior

(a) Interior shall be free of all unnecessary projections. Body panels, seats, flooring and all other component parts of the body shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and be free of any sharp or jagged edges, protruding nails, screws, or similar objects.

(b) Interior shall be equipped with inner linings on ceilings and side walls covering all body bows and body supports.

16:53-1.6 Doors

(a) Vehicle shall be equipped with a door to the right and to the left side of the driver. In addition a door(s) may be provided to the right center side of the vehicle to provide ready access to and from seats in the passenger compartment.

1. The door to the right side of the driver may be omitted on vehicle not having a passenger area immediately to the right of the driver, provided the vehicle is equipped with a right side center door(s) and meets all

requirements of FMV Safety Standard No. 217 covering emergency egress.

(b) Doors shall be readily opened from within and without, and shall be so constructed and maintained.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Delete subsections (c) and (d).

16:53-1.7 Emergency exits

(a) Vehicle manufactured before September 1, 1973, and shall meet the requirements of Parr 393.61 (b-1) of the Federal motor carriers safety regulations.

(b) Vehicle manufactured on and after September 1, 1973 having a seating capacity of more than 10 passengers, including the driver shall have emergency exits conforming to FMVSS No. 217 and N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.6(b) applicable to vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less. (Vehicles equipped with doors as stated in these specifications shall be deemed to meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 217 and N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.6(b) re: vehicle manufactured on and after September 1, 1973).

(c) On vehicle having a center aisle, in addition to the right side center door(s), shall be equipped with a rear door or doors, and the aisle leading to said doors shall not be less than 12 inches in width, nor shall the aisle be obstructed in any manner. (Exemptions to this shall be when the aisle does not extend completely to the rear due to said area being utilized as baggage compartment).

(d) Side doors and accessible rear doors shall be conspicuously marked by the words "EMERGENCY DOOR" or "EMERGENCY EXIT" on the interior, on, above, or immediately adjacent to the door. The markings shall be in letters of not less than two inches in height.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.

16:53-1.8 Aisles

(a) Vehicle equipped with a rear seat located to the rear of the rearmost opening of the right center side door shall have an aisle leading from the rearmost seat to the right center side door opening having a minimum width of 10 inches.

(b) Vehicle having a center aisle shall have a minimum center aisle width of 12 inches of unobstructed clearance.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Changed "11" to "10".

16:53-1.9 Seating

(a) A transverse seat space of not less than 15 inches shall be provided for each passenger on seats having multiple seating positions. Single seats shall provide a seat space of not less than 19 inches.

(b) Seats shall be of substantial construction, and securely mounted to the floor and/or sides. Perimeter seating is permitted when two stanchions are provided evenly spaced on each side of the aisle.

(c) Seats shall have knee room of not less than seven inches.

(d) A minimum of 35 inches of headroom measured from top of the seat cushion to the ceiling shall be provided.

(e) Portable seats, and seats not securely and permanently mounted to the floor are prohibited.

(f) The front seat shall not be occupied by more than one passenger, exclusive of the driver, provided that vehicle construction so allows.

(g) Total number of passengers shall not exceed the capacity of the vehicle as specified by the manufacturer, or the Department's rated seating capacity as designated on the Department's certificate of compliance.

(h) Bench type seats shall be equipped with suitable end arm rests.

(i) Wheelchair positions may be rear, longitudinal, diagonal or forward-facing and comply with N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

(d): "36" to "35". (h): deleted "Seat areas" and add "Bench type ... arm rests". Added (i).

16:53-1.10 Glazing

All glazing shall be of an approved type in accordance with New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles regulations.

16:53-1.11 Lights; reflectors

(a) Interior lighting shall be under control of the driver, and sufficient in number to give adequate illumination.

(b) Exterior lights shall meet all applicable New Jersey and Federal requirements.

(c) Vehicles shall be equipped with approved rear reflectors on each side.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Deleted "Reflectors shall be ... to the ground."

16:53-1.12 Mirrors

(a) Interior and exterior mirrors shall be provided to insure a clear view of the vehicle interior and of the exterior sides to the rear.

(b) Exterior left and right side mirrors shall be of the junior west coast type, low mount, firmly supported and easily adjustable.

16:53-1.13 Brakes

(a) Brakes shall conform with the manufacturer's specifications applicable to the GVWR.

(b) Hydraulic service brake systems shall be of the dual (split) type and meet FMVSS105-75.

(c) Service brakes shall be power actuated and shall operate on all wheels.

(d) Service brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle at a rate of deceleration equivalent to a stop of 25 feet from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(e) Vehicle shall be equipped with two sets of brakes having two sets of control and able to be actuated independently of each other.

(f) Emergency brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle at a rate of deceleration equivalent to a stop of 66 feet from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(g) Brake stopping distances shall be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet.

1. Each autobus shall meet the brake stop requirements with an approved and calibrated decelerometer.
2. Brake stop equipment shall be owned, or arrangements made for its use, or provided by others, or testing to be performed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.2.
3. The brake stop test shall be performed within 20 days prior to self inspection certification.
4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation shall provide facilities to conduct brake tests at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing shall be provided.

(h) Brakes, drums and rotors shall be permanently and plainly marked and shall clearly indicate the maximum safe diameter of the drum or the minimum safe thickness of the rotor as determined by the manufacturer of the drum or rotor. A drum or rotor worn beyond the maximum safe diameter or minimum safe thickness as prescribed by industry standard shall be discarded.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (g) added 1.-4. requiring certain instruments and parameters for brake tests.

16:53-1.14 Tires and wheels

(a) Vehicle shall be equipped with tires and wheels of sufficient size and construction, as recommended by the manufacturer to meet the GVWR.

(b) Vehicles shall not be operated on any tire having exposed fabric on tread or sidewall.

(c) Front and rear tires shall have a minimum tread groove of $\frac{3}{32}$ inches. Measurements to be made at any point, on a major tread groove except where tie bars, humps, or fillets are located.

(d) Vehicle shall not be operated with regrooved, re-capped, or retread tires on any wheel.

(e) Vehicle shall be equipped with tires that are matched in size designation, construction and profile. Radial tires are not to be mixed with other types.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).
Deleted (b); renumbered (c)-(f) as (b)-(e).

16:53-1.15 Heaters and defrosters

(a) Vehicle shall be equipped with an adequate heating and defroster system.

(b) The use of exhaust gases for heating purposes within the passenger compartment shall not be permitted, nor shall any portion of the exhaust system be contained within the passenger compartment.

(c) Heaters permitting air contamination shall be prohibited.

(d) Heating devices utilizing gasoline or other fuel shall be of a type approved by a recognized Underwriter's Laboratory, meeting all applicable Federal requirements and shall be located entirely outside of the passenger compartment.

16:53-1.16 Fuel tanks and fuel systems

(a) Fuel tanks and systems shall meet all applicable Federal requirements as set forth in Part 301 of the Federal motor carriers safety regulations.

(b) Fuel tanks and filler pipes shall be located wholly outside of the body, to the rear of the line of the windshield, and/or front axle as physical conditions may indicate and be properly insulated to prevent danger of fire.

(c) Fuel tanks shall be so constructed and located in a manner that will permit filling and draining from the outside of the vehicle only.

(d) Filler pipe caps shall fit snugly to prevent fuel leakage.

(e) Fuel and any other combustible materials shall not be carried or stored in the passenger compartment.

16:53-1.17 Exhaust systems

(a) Exhaust systems shall be free of leaks and securely installed, and entirely outside of the vehicle body and equipped with an appropriate muffler. Flexible pipe or tubing shall be prohibited in exhaust systems.

(b) Exhaust systems shall vent to the rear of the rear wheels.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent emission of unnecessary smoke or vapors. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection motor vehicle emission inspection standard applicable to light duty gasoline fuel motor vehicles.

1. Each vehicle exhaust emission system shall be inspected utilizing equipment approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Inspection of the vehicle exhaust emission system may be conducted by the vehicle company, by a designated person chosen by the company or by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as prescribed in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.1.

3. Each vehicle must be inspected every six months by a person qualified to conduct emission testing. Inspections must be completed no later than 20 days prior to the expiration date indicated on the sticker issued by the Department. Inspection performed by other than New Jersey Department of Transportation personnel shall require a certification from the individual conducting such inspection indicating his or her qualifications to conduct such a test and the type of equipment used.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation shall provide facilities to conduct exhaust emission testing at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or otherwise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components, or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Added 1.-4. at (c) describing the requirements of conducting exhaust emission testing.

16:53-1.18 Windshield wipers

(a) Vehicles shall be equipped with at least two windshield wipers and washers, sufficient in size and power and maintained so as to provide the driver with a clear forward vision. Windshield wipers shall be located on each side of the windshield center line.

(b) Windshield wipers shall be of variable speed and electrically operated.

16:53-1.19 Steps

(a) The first step at the right side center door area shall not be less than 10 inches or more than 16 inches from the ground, when the vehicle is unloaded.

(b) Surface of all steps shall be on non-skid material.

(c) Vehicle having a front entrance door of 74 inches in height shall have a step height at that location not to exceed 18 inches (unloaded) and shall also be equipped with an adequate entrance handle.

(d) Steps shall not extend beyond the body limits to a degree which could possibly result in body injury or property damage.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added "door".

16:53-1.20 Sun visor

Vehicles shall be equipped with an adequate interior sun visor for driver use.

16:53-1.21 Baggage racks and compartments

(a) Exterior baggage racks shall be constructed so that all baggage will be held in a secure, safe manner, under all conditions of operation.

(b) Ladders or any other similar means of reaching the exterior baggage racks shall be prohibited unless protection is provided that will prevent the possibility of ride hitching.

(c) Interior baggage area shall be separated from the passenger compartment by a plexiglass or similar material partition of at least 3/8-inch thick or of rigid plastic of the approved type—A through 13, or a metal grill of sufficient strength and construction to safely separate the areas, properly installed in a workmanlike manner. Interior baggage shall be carried in a manner so as not to interfere with any passenger seat, safety or comfort.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added "or similar material" to subsection (a).

16:53-1.22 Drive shaft

The drive shaft shall be so constructed or equipped to prevent it from coming in contact with the roadway or with parts of the vehicle in the event that it becomes disconnected.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-1.23 Speedometers

Each vehicle shall be equipped with a suitable speedometer which shall be operative with reasonable accuracy in miles per hour and readily visible to the driver.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-1.24 Overhang of body

(a) The maximum overhang of body to rear of the rear axle shall not be in excess of one-third of the total length of the vehicle.

(b) Vehicle measurements are to be taken from the extreme front to the extreme rear of the vehicle, not including bumpers.

(c) Overhang measurements are to be taken from the center of the rear axle to the extreme rear end of the vehicle, not including rear bumper.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-1.25 Signaling device

Each device shall be equipped with a horn or other signaling device to give reasonable warning to other users of the highway of the approach of the vehicle.

R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-1.26 Grounding device

Each vehicle, unless otherwise designed to eliminate static electric charge buildup, shall be equipped with a suitable grounding device.

R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-1.27 Identification

(a) No van shall be operated unless it displays the exact name of the operator on each side of its exterior in clearly visible letters at least three inches in height.

(b) Every van shall be assigned an identifying number by the utility. This number must be displayed on the interior front, and the front, rear and both sides of the exterior. Interior number shall be at least three inches in height. All

exterior numbers shall be at least three inches and of a sharply contrasting color from the background.

(c) Each van shall have displayed on the righthand side thereof the number of the Department's Certificate of Compliance in letters and figures three inches high in the following style; NJDOT V-123.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).
Section substantially amended.

16:53-1.28 Certificate of inspection

No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays on the lower right hand corner of the windshield, visible from the exterior an unexpired certificate of inspection issued by this Department.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(a).
Originally N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.24.

16:53-1.29 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment, shall be maintained in good repair and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to insure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vans for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The records shall also indicate the party making corrections and the date corrections were made.

(e) The systematic maintenance records shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection.

(f) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.30, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record and any adjustments or repairs shall be maintained in office or garage. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(g) The records referred to in N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(c) and (e) shall be retained for a period of at least 12 months after the date of the matter recorded and shall be made available during that period to the duly authorized representative of the Department upon request.

(h) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(i) The entire vehicles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(j) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

(k) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certificated for school use. They will be inspected bi-annually by Department personnel.

As amended, R.1983 d.455, effective October 17, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Originally N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.25.

16:53-1.30 Certification of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(f) and N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.30(d).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to all other vehicles, once yearly, in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(f)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.30(d).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(f).

(d) No van shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(e) All vans operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

SUBCHAPTER 2. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT PASSENGERS IN WHEELCHAIRS

16:53-2.1 Doors

(a) A service door(s) shall be located on the right side. The door(s) opening shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the wheelchair and seated passenger.

(b) A drip molding shall be installed above the door(s) opening to effectively spill water from the entrance.

(c) The door(s) shall cover the entire opening and shall be weathersealed to include lift or ramp storage area.

(d) The door(s) shall be equipped with a device that will actuate an audible or visible signal when the door(s) is not securely closed. Such warning signal shall be located in the driver's compartment.

(e) A positive fastening device shall be installed to hold the door(s) in an open position.

(f) A light located over the service door(s) and activated by opening the door(s) shall be provided.

16:53-2.2 Ramp

(a) If a ramp is used, it shall be stored completely enclosed in the vehicle and shall be of sufficient strength and rigidity to support wheelchair, occupant and attendant. It shall be equipped with protective flange on each longitudinal side to keep the wheelchair on the ramp. The ramp shall be capable of supporting a minimum of 500 pounds.

(b) Ramp shall be equipped with handle(s) designed to permit one person to place the ramp in service position and to return it to storage area.

(c) Ramp shall be properly secured in the stored position.

(d) Provisions shall be made to permanently attach the ramp at one end to the inside of the vehicle at floor level, in such manner as to permit easy access of the wheels of the wheelchair(s) to the floor of the vehicle.

(e) Width of ramp shall conform generally to width of the door(s) opening.

(f) Rear door ramps are not permitted.

16:53-2.3 Power lift

(a) If a power lift is used, it shall be stored completely within the vehicle and shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the wheelchair and occupant. The power lift shall be capable of lifting a minimum load of 500 pounds. Protective panelling adjacent to the lift shall be provided to prevent shearing action between platforms and vehicle floor.

(b) The power lift shall be mounted on the chassis frame or vehicle body, provided the body and or chassis frame is adequately strengthened and warranted by the lift installer. Edges of platform and adjacent floor shall be properly finished and all seams covered with molding as required for vehicle floor. Flexible seals, designed to keep out dirt, water and fumes, when in a locked position, shall be installed along platform edges.

(c) The power lift floor shall be of skid-resistant material.

(d) An approach ramp shall be permanently attached to the lift platform. When the platform is in the down position, approach ramps shall minimize the incline from the ground to the lift floor. The approach ramp shall have a skid-resistant surface. There shall be means provided to contain the wheelchair on lift platform when platform is in use.

(e) A device shall be installed which will prevent operation of lift until door(s) is open.

(f) A device shall be provided to prevent power lift from dropping while in a stored position.

(g) All electrical and hydraulic lines within the passenger compartment shall be adequately enclosed and protected.

(h) Rear door lifts are prohibited.

(i) In the event the power lift, when in stored position, prevents inside access to the special service door(s) opening, the lift control system shall be equipped with a device which will allow moving the lift from its obstructing position in the event of an emergency or power failure.

(j) All lifts shall be approved by lift manufacturer for passenger carrying purposes. Manufacturer's certificate must be permanently attached to vehicle.

16:53-2.4 Fastening devices for wheelchairs

Positive fastening devices as approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation shall be provided, attached to the floor, walls or both, that will securely hold wheelchair(s) in position and will not constitute a tripping hazard. Fastening devices attached to the underside of a fold-up seat

shall be permitted if the original manufacturer certifies their suitability.

16:53-2.5 Aisle

An aisle leading from a wheelchair position to the emergency or exit door shall be a minimum of 30 inches.

16:53-2.6 Fuel tanks

The fuel tank may be located at other than normal position if required for wheelchair installation and approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

16:53-2.7 Interlocks

Interlocks shall be provided to prevent the operation of the vehicle while the lift or ramp is not in its stored position.

SUBCHAPTER 3. AUTOBUS SPECIFICATIONS

16:53-3.1 Scope

(a) The New Jersey Department of Transportation hereby adopts the rules and regulations relating to the safety of equipment as promulgated from time to time by the United States Department of Transportation (formerly ICC Motor Carrier Safety Regulations), presently set forth in Part 393, entitled "Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation", as amended. A copy of these regulations entitled "Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Safety Regulations", may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20423.

(b) The following specifications apply to all autobuses for which a Certificate of Compliance of this Department is required. The specifications applicable to sedan-type autobuses are set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8; for vans N.J.A.C. 16:53-1, and small buses N.J.A.C. 16:53-4.

(c) Any autobus now in operation or acquired prior to June 1, 1989, and for which the Department has issued a Certificate of Compliance, may continue in service as presently designed, constructed and equipped where the context of these specifications indicates to the contrary. Any autobus for which a contract of sale or purchase order has been entered into on or before June 1, 1989, should be certified in accordance with specifications in effect prior to June 1, 1989.

(d) For purposes of this subchapter, an autobus shall be defined as a motor vehicle used in the transportation for hire having a seating capacity of 26 or more passengers except as provided in "modified interiors", with an interior height of not less than 75 inches and comply with specifications in this subchapter. For purposes of this chapter, an articulated vehicle is a single unit.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Transferred from N.J.A.C. 14:11-2.1 with substantial changes.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

In (c), dates changed from January 2, 1983 to June 1, 1989.

16:53-3.2 Dimensions of autobuses

(a) The overall length, for a single unit bus, shall not exceed 45 feet, 0 inches, excluding bumpers, except that an articulated bus shall not exceed 61 feet, 0 inches, excluding bumpers.

(b) The over-all width shall not exceed 102 inches outside measurement. For buses exceeding 102 inches, see (c) below.

(c) No autobus with an outside width in excess of 102 inches will be approved unless request for approval is accompanied by a certificate of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Law and Public Safety, that the proposed width is not unsafe for use on the highways in this State, and of the Department of Transportation, that the proposed width, if in excess of 102 inches, is not in conflict with the requirements of any agency of the United States having jurisdiction over the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways authorized by law. No outside width so prescribed shall be valid if the allowance or use of same would disqualify the State of New Jersey or any department, agency or governmental subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving Federal highway funds.

(d) The inside height of autobuses transporting passengers shall not be less than six feet, three inches measured vertically from the floor level in the center of the aisle to the ceiling.

(e) The overall height of an autobus shall not exceed 13 feet, six inches.

Amended by R.1982 d.30, effective February 1, 1982.

See: 13 N.J.R. 834(a), 14 N.J.R. 160(b).

(a): "61" feet was "40".

Amended by R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-2.2 with substantial changes in section.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Maximum outside width measurement made consistent at 102 inches throughout; deleted reference to 96 inches.

Amended by R.1993 d.190, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 459(a), 25 N.J.R. 1885(a).

Revised (a) and (d).

16:53-3.3 Window opening

Window opening shall be restricted to a maximum of six inches.

R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.4 Guard rail

All autobuses so equipped to permit the carrying of standees shall comply with FMCSR 393.90. A crowd gate or guard rail that is installed in an autobus shall be in operating condition.

As amended, R.1982 d.30, eff. February 1, 1982.

See: 13 N.J.R. 834(a), 14 N.J.R. 160(b).

Catchline: "or marking" added, old text deleted and replaced with new text.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Deleted old text and inserted new text.

16:53-3.5 Partition and curtain

All autobuses shall be equipped with a partition of wood, metal and wire glass, safety glass or plexiglass at least $\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick or rigid plastic of the approved type AS-4 or AS-5, and located to the rear of the driver's seat with a suitable curtain or tinting, if necessary, to shield the driver from the glare of inside lights. The minimum dimensions of driver's partitions shall be 18 inches wide and shall extend upward from at least two inches below the top of the driver's seat back to not less than 18 inches from the ceiling.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added "or rigid ... AS 13,".

Amended by R.1986 d.399, effective October 6, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1519(b), 18 N.J.R. 2058(c).

Added text "The minimum dimensions ... from the ceiling."

16:53-3.6 Service doors

(a) All service doors and connecting passages shall have a horizontal clearance of not less than 24 inches.

(b) Service doors located rearward of the front service door shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal indicating to the driver when the door is not completely closed. Such doors shall also be equipped with flexible rubber edges having a total width of four inches.

(c) Rear side service doors shall be so interlocked that it will be impossible, under normal operating conditions, to put the vehicle in motion when such door is open.

(d) Autobuses equipped with a kneeling feature are required to have the following:

1. A warning sign located on the right front exterior, visible while the door is opened, indicating that the bus kneels;

2. A flashing amber light at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter located at the right front of the vehicle and an audible device which shall be activated when the bus is lowered or raised; and

3. An interlock installed so that during the kneeling cycle, it will be impossible, under normal operating conditions, to put the vehicle in motion.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

This section recodified from 14:11-2.6.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

(d) added concerning requirements for autobuses with a kneeling feature.

16:53-3.7 Special equipment for vehicles used to transport passengers in wheelchairs

(a) Doors shall conform as follows:

1. A service door(s) shall be located on right side. The door(s) opening shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the wheelchair and seated passenger;
2. A drip molding shall be installed above the door(s) opening to effectively spill water from entrance;
3. The door(s) shall cover the entire opening and shall be weathersealed to include lift or ramp storage area;
4. The door(s) shall be equipped with a device that will actuate an audible or visible signal when the door(s) is not securely closed. Such warning signal shall be located in the driver's compartment;
5. A positive fastening device shall be installed to hold the door(s) in an open position; and
6. A light located over the service door(s) and activated by opening the door(s) shall be provided.

(b) Ramps shall conform as follows:

1. If a ramp is used, it shall be stored completely enclosed in the vehicle and shall be of sufficient strength and rigidity to support wheelchair, occupant and attendant. It shall be equipped with protective flange on each longitudinal side to keep the wheelchair on the ramp. The ramp shall be capable of supporting a minimum of 500 pounds;
2. Ramp shall be equipped with handle(s) designed to permit one person to place the ramp in service position and to return it to storage area;
3. Ramp shall be properly secured in the stored position;
4. Provisions shall be made to permanently attach the ramp at one end to the inside of the vehicle at floor level, in such manner as to permit easy access of the wheels of the wheelchair(s) to the floor of the vehicle.
5. Width of ramp shall conform generally to width of the door(s) opening; and
6. Rear door ramps are not permitted.

(c) Power lifts shall conform as follows:

1. If a power lift is used, it shall be stored completely within the outside dimensions of the vehicle and shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the wheelchair and occupant. The power lift shall be capable of lifting a

minimum load of 500 pounds. Protective panelling adjacent to the lift shall be provided to prevent shearing action between platforms and vehicle floor;

2. The power lift shall be mounted on the chassis frame or vehicle body, provided the body and/or chassis frame is adequately strengthened and warranted by the lift installer. Edges of platform and adjacent floor shall be properly finished and all seams covered with molding as required for vehicle floor. Flexible seals, designed to keep out dirt, water and fumes, when in a locked position, shall be installed along platform edges;

3. The power lift floor shall be of skid-resistant material;

4. An approach ramp shall be permanently attached to the lift platform. When the platform is in the down position, the approach ramp shall minimize the incline from the ground to the lift floor. The approach ramp shall have a skid-resistant surface. There shall be means provided to contain the wheelchair on lift platform when platform is in use;

5. A device shall be installed which will prevent operation of lift until door(s) is open;

6. A device shall be provided to prevent power lift from drifting or dropping while in a stored position;

7. All electrical and hydraulic lines within the passenger compartment shall be adequately enclosed and protected;

8. Rear door lifts are not permitted;

9. In the event the power lift, when in stored position, prevents inside access to the special service door(s) opening, the lift control system shall be equipped with a device which allows moving the lift from its obstructing position in the event of an emergency or power failure; and

10. All lifts shall be approved by lift manufacturer for passenger carrying purposes. Manufacturer's certificate must be permanently attached to vehicle.

(d) Positive fastening devices for wheelchairs shall be provided, attached to the floor, walls or both, that will securely hold wheelchair(s) in position and will not constitute a tripping hazard. Fastening devices attached to the underside of a fold-up seat shall be permitted if the original manufacturer of the vehicle certifies their suitability.

(e) An aisle leading from a wheelchair position to the emergency or exit door(s) shall be a minimum width of 30 inches.

(f) The fuel tank may be located at other than normal position if required for wheelchair installation and approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, provided location of fuel tank does not create a safety hazard.

(g) Interlocks shall be provided to prevent the operation of the vehicle while the lift or ramp is not in its fully stored and locked position.

R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.8 Emergency door

(a) An emergency door located in the center of the rear vertical plane of the bus body or in the left side of the bus body between the center of the bus and the extreme rear of the bus body shall be provided. The emergency door shall have a clearance with the door open of not less than ten inches at the floor line and not less than 18 inches from a point 12 inches above the floor line to the upper belt panel.

(b) The emergency door shall be conspicuously marked on the inside of the bus body:

EMERGENCY DOOR

(c) The emergency door shall be constructed and maintained in such condition as to be readily opened by passengers in case of emergency.

(d) A clear passage to the emergency door of not less than ten inches in width and free from all obstruction shall be provided and maintained.

(e) The emergency door shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal to warn the driver when the door is not completely closed.

(f) In lieu of an emergency door, each autobus shall have adequate means of escape for passengers through push-out type windows. Roof hatches are also required where there is no rear push-out type window. Each push-out type window so constructed, shall have a frame or sash so designed, constructed and maintained as to provide free opening with reasonable effort. Both push-out type windows and roof hatches must conform with FMVSS 217.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

(f) added: "Roof hatches . . . type window"; and "both push-out . . . FMVSS217".

16:53-3.9 Aisle

The width of the aisle shall not be less than 14 inches.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:11-2.8.

16:53-3.10 Seat dimensions

(a) A clearance of not less than 26 inches shall be provided between seats, measured at the seat line from the front of the back rest of each seat to the nearest forward obstruction.

(b) A transverse and longitudinal seat space of not less than 16 inches shall be provided for each seated passenger.

(c) The seating capacity or seat layout in any autobus shall not be permanently changed without notification to the Department and no autobus in which such changes have been made shall be placed in service until inspected and approved by a representative of the Department.

(d) Permanent seats may be installed to the right of the driver provided an approved transparent shield is installed between the driver and the seat to prevent passengers from interfering with or conversing with the driver.

(e) A tour guide seat may be installed to the right of the center aisle, provided that said seat is not occupied by other than an employee of the autobus company. When the tour guide seat is not in use, it shall fold to allow a clear 24 inch passageway. The tour guide seat shall be equipped with a seat belt.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Changed "board" to "Department".

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

(e) added allowing for the installation and use of a tour guide seat.

16:53-3.11 Entrance handles for passenger use

(a) Rails or handles located inside the bus body shall be provided at each service door.

(b) Outside handles will not be permitted on any portion of the autobus.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Recodified section.

16:53-3.12 Handles for standing passengers

(a) Handles, stanchions or hand rails placed at a convenient height shall be provided in autobuses normally carrying standing passengers, except in that portion of the autobus where handles on transverse seats are provided.

(b) All hand rails, stanchions and handles must be constructed of nonflammable materials.

(c) Standing passengers shall not be carried in excess of the following limitations, except that the total weight of the passenger load plus the combined weight of the body and chassis shall not exceed the gross vehicle weight rating recommended by the chassis manufacturer;

1. 75 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle not less than 20 inches wide;

2. 70 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle less than 20 inches but not less than 19 inches wide;

3. 65 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle less than 19 inches but not less than 18 inches wide;

4. 60 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle less than 18 inches but not less than 17 inches wide;

5. 55 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle less than 17 inches but not less than 16 inches wide;

6. 50 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle less than 16 inches but not less than 15 inches wide;

7. 40 percent of the seating capacity of a bus with a main aisle less than 15 inches but not less than 14 inches wide.

(d) Passengers shall not be permitted to stand forward of the crowd gate or marking, described in FMCSR 393.90, as may be applicable, while the bus is in motion.

(e) All vehicles carrying passengers must have the permitted standing passengers capacity of vehicle displayed on the exterior or vehicle adjacent to the area of the entrance door and clearly visible to all boarding passengers. Vehicles not permitting standees shall display on the exterior of the vehicle "No standees".

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added subsection (c).

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Requirement added at (e) regarding display of sign on exterior when vehicles do not permit standees.

16:53-3.13 Lights

(a) An interior lighting system shall be provided which shall have a total luminous intensity of not less than five rated candle power per seated passenger, the receptacles being located so as to provide a reasonably uniform diffusion of light within the passenger compartment. The lamps shall be located or shielded so as to prevent direct rays of light source from striking the windshield.

(b) At least one step light shall be provided at each service door.

(c) Stop lights shall be separate and independent from all other rear lights.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Recodified section.

16:53-3.14 Passenger signal

A satisfactory signal system shall be provided and maintained for the use of passengers to signal for a stop if

operated on an approved route and passengers are discharged at points between termini.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added "if operated . . . between termini".

16:53-3.15 Signs

(a) An illuminated sign indicating route and destination shall be provided, so designed and located that it may be read by day or night. This sign must not interfere with the driver's view or produce an annoying glare.

(b) The requirement for destination sign may be omitted in certain instances provided the operator receives written approval from the Department.

(c) A sign shall be provided indicating that smoking on autobuses is prohibited by law.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added new (b). Changed old (b) to (c).

16:53-3.16 Chassis and body or bus unit

(a) The chassis and body, or complete bus unit, shall be so designed and constructed that it will properly and safely support the gross weight of the vehicle, including capacity passenger load.

(b) Step height shall not exceed 18 inches.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Recodified section.

16:53-3.17 Relation of body and chassis frame

(a) The body shall not extend more than 18 inches beyond the rear of the main frame supporting the body.

(b) An extension may be installed at the rear end of the original chassis frame by the chassis manufacturer, or by any other person, provided the chassis manufacturer issued an approval for such extension.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Body frame extension changed from "15" inches to "18" inches. Old (b) deleted and new language substituted therefor.

16:53-3.18 Overhang of body

(a) The maximum overhang of body to the rear of the rear axle shall not be in excess of one-third of the total length of the vehicle.

(b) Vehicle measurements are to be taken from the extreme front to the extreme rear of the vehicle, not including bumpers.

(c) Overhang measurements are to be taken from the center of the rear axle to the extreme rear end of the bus, not including rear bumper.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).
Section recodified.

16:53-3.19 Bumpers

(a) Each autobus shall be equipped with front and rear bumpers attached to the main frame supporting the body.

(b) The rear bumper shall extend at least four inches beyond the body limits and be shielded on the top to prevent toehold, except on an autobus constructed with its engine attached to the extreme rear end of the chassis frame or one having a similarly sized compartment between the extreme rear of the bus body and rear seat in the passenger compartment.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, eff. May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

(b) Deleted the language " , except on autobuses . . . in the passenger compartment."

Amended by R.1983 d.399, effective October 6, 1986.
See: 18 N.J.R. 1519(b), 18 N.J.R. 2058(c).

Added text "except on an . . . the passenger compartment."

16:53-3.20 Brakes

(a) Every autobus shall be equipped with two independent brake systems. Service brakes shall operate on all wheels and shall be capable of bringing the autobus to a stop of 22.5 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(b) The emergency brake shall be capable of bringing the autobus to a stop of 75 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

1. Emergency brake is to be activated and capable of stopping and holding bus if main system supply to service brake falls below safe operating level. Upon application of emergency brake, it must remain on, though source of energy for application may be eliminated.

2. When emergency brake is activated by loss of system to main service brakes, driver, without leaving seat, must be able to override emergency brake a minimum of three times. Control to operate override shall be of a "dead man" type, necessitating constant driver effort to use. All buses equipped with air brakes manufactured after March, 1975, must comply with FMVSS No. 121, pertaining to split system and emergency application.

3. Any system source to activate emergency brake shall be separate and independent of main service brake system supply source.

(c) The braking distance will ordinarily be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet.

1. Each autobus shall meet the brake stop requirement with an approved calibrated decelerometer.

2. Brake stop equipment shall be owned, or arrangements made for its use, or provided by others, or testing to be performed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.2.

3. The brake stop test shall be performed within 20 days prior to self inspection certification.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct brake tests at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(d) Brake systems actuated by compressed air pressure or vacuum power shall be constructed to afford the following results:

1. Compressed air brake systems shall be equipped with an air compressor of sufficient size to fully charge the reservoir to its rated operating pressure in three minutes or less.

2. Reservoir capacity shall be sufficient to maintain 60 PSI after four full brake applications. This shall be accomplished with engine and compressor shut down.

3. Compressed air reservoirs system shall be equipped with a safety valve that shall vent to the atmosphere. Safety valve setting shall not be in excess of 1½ times the maximum air compressor governed pressure setting. The safety valve shall be tested at intervals of not greater than six months.

4. Vacuum reservoirs shall have a volume of not less than 1,000 cubic inches and shall be used for braking purposes only.

5. Vacuum brake systems shall develop a minimum of 14 inches of reservoir vacuum within the following times:

- i. Intake manifold of engine one minute; and
- ii. Vacuum pump, two minutes.

(e) Brake systems shall be equipped with a pressure or power gauge, indicating pounds per square inch or inches of mercury, located in clear view of the driver and illuminated during the period running lights are required.

(f) Buses equipped with brake systems actuated by compressed air or vacuum power shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal within hearing or full view of the driver to indicate that air or vacuum pressure is dangerously low.

(g) Hydraulic system service (foot) brakes shall be of a dual type, split to the front and rear wheels and each section separately actuated.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.
Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (c) added 1.-4. requirements of brake stop and brake stop testing; at (e) added inches of mercury as acceptable measure.

16:53-3.21 Equipment unit

(a) Only single-unit, including articulated, autobus equipment with the motive power and the passenger compartment mounted on such unit will be permitted.

(b) Trailers will not be permitted to be attached to an autobus used in the transporting of passengers.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Added (a): "including articulated". Added (b).

16:53-3.22 Identification

(a) No autobus shall be operated unless it displays on each side of its exterior, the exact name of the operator in clearly visible letters at least three inches in height.

(b) Every autobus shall be assigned an identifying number by the utility. This number shall be displayed on the interior front, and the front, rear and both sides of the exterior. Interior and exterior numbers shall be at least three inches in height. All exterior numbers shall be at least three inches in height and of a sharply contrasting color from the background. The number at the rear shall be displayed at least 60 inches from the ground.

(c) Each autobus shall display on the right-hand side thereof, the number of the Department's Certificate of Compliance and the charter number, if applicable, in letters and figures three inches high in the following style: NJDOT 12345 and/or NJDOT 123C.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.
Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Height of exterior numbers changed from 3¾ to three inches and requirement to display rear numbers 60 inches from ground and the display of the charter number if applicable.

16:53-3.23 Certificate of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.24(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.24(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.24(e).

(d) No autobus shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(e) All autobuses operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to the Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a) and be subject to the appropriate penalty.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Changed "Board" to "Department". Added language "Department, visible ... and frequency".

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

Section substantially amended.
Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (f) added ... "and be subject to the appropriate penalty".

16:53-3.24 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to insure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The records shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.23, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certificated for school use. They will be inspected bi-annually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

Section substantially amended.

16:53-3.25 Tires and wheels

(a) Each autobus shall be equipped with tires and wheels of sufficient size and construction, and maintained in such condition as to sustain safely the gross weight of the vehicle, including maximum passenger load.

(b) No autobus shall be operated with retread or re-capped tires on the front wheels.

(c) No autobus shall be operated unless the front tires have a tread groove of at least 4/32 of an inch when measured in a major tread groove.

(d) No autobus shall be operated unless the rear tires have a tread groove of at least 2/32 of an inch when measured in a major tread groove.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Subsections (b) through (d) added. Changes in (a).

16:53-3.26 Windshield wipers, washers and defroster

(a) Each autobus shall be equipped with two or more suitable windshield wipers and washers that will provide the driver with a clear forward view.

(b) Each autobus shall be equipped with a suitable windshield defroster.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section substantially amended.

16:53-3.27 Exhaust systems

(a) Exhaust systems shall discharge at the rear or on the street side of the autobus. No part of the exhaust system shall be so located as would likely result in burning, charring or damaging the electrical wiring, the fuel supply or any combustible part of the bus.

(b) The exhaust system of a bus powered by a gasoline engine shall terminate at or within six inches forward of the rearmost part of the bus.

(c) The exhaust pipe of a diesel-powered vehicle shall:

1. Discharge gases to the atmosphere at or within 15 inches forward of the rearmost part of the vehicle; or
2. Discharge gases to the atmosphere to the rear of all doors or windows designed to be opened for ventilation. Windows designed to be opened solely as emergency exits are not considered to be openable for ventilation.

(d) Such system shall be maintained in good working order in conformity with standards promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

1. Each autobus exhaust emission system shall be inspected utilizing equipment approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Inspection of the autobus exhaust emission system may be conducted by the autobus company, by a designated person chosen by the company or by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.1.

3. Each autobus shall be inspected every six months by a person qualified to conduct emission testing. Inspections shall be completed within 20 days prior to the expiration date indicated on the sticker issued by the Department. Inspections performed by any person other than New Jersey Department of Transportation personnel shall require a certification from the individual conducting such inspection indicating his or her qualifications to conduct such a test and the type of equipment used.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct exhaust emission test at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section completely amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (d) added 1.-4. describing auto exhaust emission system inspections.

16:53-3.28 Drive shaft

Any drive shaft extending lengthwise under the floor of the passenger compartment of a bus shall be protected by means of at least one guard or bracket at that end of the shaft which is provided with a sliding connection (spline or other such device) to prevent the whipping of the shaft in the event of failure thereof or any of its component parts. A shaft contained within a torque tube shall not require any such device.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section completely amended.

16:53-3.29 Safety glazing and window construction

Glazing shall be a type approved by the Director, Division of Motor Vehicles and comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation 393.60 and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217, pertaining to emergency escape.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section completely amended.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Corrected Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation cite.

16:53-3.30 Exterior lights and reflectors

Each autobus shall be equipped with lamps, signaling devices and reflectors of a type approved by the Director, Division of Motor Vehicles. In addition, stop lights are to be separate and independent of all other rear lights.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section completely amended.

16:53-3.31 Signaling device

Each autobus shall be equipped with a horn or other signaling device to give reasonable warning to other users of the highway of the approach of the vehicle.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section recodified.

16:53-3.32 Speedometers

Each autobus shall be equipped with a suitable speedometer which indicates speed in miles per hour, shall be operative with reasonable accuracy and readily visible to the operator. A method for recording accumulated miles shall also be provided.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Section recodified.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Added requirements that speed be indicated in miles per hour and a method for recording accumulated miles be provided.

16:53-3.33 Grounding device

Each autobus, unless otherwise designed to eliminate static electric charge buildup, shall be equipped with a suitable grounding device.

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

Deleted original text and inserted "unless otherwise ... device".

16:53-3.34 Heating and ventilation

(a) An adequate heating system capable of heating the passenger section to a temperature of at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit, whenever required, shall be provided.

(b) Heating systems using exhaust gas to heat air carried within the passenger section or exhaust gas passing through conductors within the passenger section are prohibited.

(c) Heating devices using gasoline or other fuel shall be of a type approved by a recognized Underwriter's Laboratory and conform with FMCSR Part 393.77 and all fuel lines shall be located outside of the passenger section.

(d) Every autobus shall be equipped with a system of ventilation capable of distributing an adequate supply of fresh air throughout the passenger section.

(e) Every autobus equipped with at least 90 percent non-operational sash shall be equipped with a suitable air conditioner in good operating condition and shall be in operating condition during the months between June 1 and September 15 of each year.

(f) The above requirements shall pertain to all autobuses, not withstanding N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.1(c).

As amended, R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.35 Turntable (articulated)

The turntable floor must be properly aligned to prevent raising and lowering while the vehicle is in operation.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.36 Turntable area enclosure

Bellows or a similar arrangement used to enclose the portion of the vehicle in the turntable area shall be maintained to prevent exhaust fumes or the elements from entering the vehicle.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.37 Anti-jackknifing devices

(a) Articulated vehicles must be equipped with an interlock to prevent the vehicle from jackknifing while backing up.

(b) The vehicle shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal indicating to the driver when the vehicle is nearing the jackknife position.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.38 Fuel system

(a) All parts of the fuel system shall be securely installed outside of the passenger section and shall be located or protected so as to prevent damage to any part thereof.

(b) Buses manufactured after January 1, 1974, shall have the fuel supply line fitting located in the top of the tank.

(c) The filler cap shall be non-detachable, leakproof and spillproof.

(d) A gasoline tank shall not be placed below the aisle, unless the area over such tank is adequately protected by metal shielding.

(e) A fuel supply system using liquefied petroleum gas shall be constructed and installed in conformity with the standards established by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. A certificate of such compliance, executed by the manufacturer or the installer of the fuel system, shall be submitted by the operator at the original inspection.

(f) All buses manufactured after January 1, 1974, shall be equipped with fuel tanks certified and marked by the manufacturer as to compliance with FMCSR Part 393.67, requirements for liquid fuel tanks. Replacement fuel tanks installed on any bus after January 1, 1974, shall comply with this subdivision.

R.1983 d.110, effective May 2, 1983.
See: 14 N.J.R. 1347(a), 15 N.J.R. 694(b).

16:53-3.39 Fire extinguisher

Fire extinguishers are not required on a regular scheduled intrastate route.

16:53-3.40 Mirrors

(a) Interior and exterior mirrors shall be provided to insure a clear view of the vehicle interior and of the exterior sides to the rear.

(b) If desired, a video camera designed to view the exterior rear, in addition to rear view mirrors, may be installed so that the camera is inoperable while the vehicle is in a forward motion.

New Rule, R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Amended by R.1990 d.3, effective January 2, 1990.
See: 21 N.J.R. 3259(a), 22 N.J.R. 60(a).

In (b), added, "If desired, a ..." and changed "shall" to "may be installed".

16:53-3.41 Video monitor and/or television receiver installation for passenger use

(a) An autobus shall not have a video monitor and/or a television receiver installed in such a manner that the viewing screen is visible to the driver while operating the autobus.

(b) The manual changing of station channels for television reception must be done at a location other than from the driver's seat.

(c) The viewing screen shall be installed in such a way as to minimize passenger contact. In addition, viewing screens shall not block normal access to the aisle or emergency escape windows.

(d) Viewing screens placed above passenger seats shall be installed in a manner as to allow a passenger to occupy the seat below the unit without coming into contact with it, while in a normally seated position.

(e) With the exception of the viewing screen and the front perimeter of the housing, the video monitor or the television receiver shall be enclosed in a material designed to soften any passenger impact with the chassis of the unit or its mounting components. Ventilation holes are permitted.

(f) All equipment (video screens, television receivers, video cassette recorders, tape players, etc.) shall be securely mounted to the vehicle, so that they cannot be moved without being intentionally unfastened. In lieu of this requirement, the unit must be inside of an enclosure to prevent its shifting or falling on the driver or passengers.

(g) Wiring shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and shall be equipped with an overload protector.

New Rule, R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

SUBCHAPTER 4. MODIFIED INTERIORS OR AUTOBUSES USED FOR CHARTER OR SPECIAL BUS OPERATIONS

16:53-4.1 Scope

(a) The following additions apply to autobuses whose conventional seating arrangements have been changed and special equipment installed.

(b) A New Jersey Department of Transportation autobus whose conventional seating has been modified prior to June 1, 1989, may continue in service as presently designed.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (b) changed date from January 2, 1983 to June 1, 1989.

16:53-4.2 Seating

All seating must be securely fastened. A clear, straight aisle width of 14 inches, minimum, shall be provided the entire length of the bus.

16:53-4.3 Passageways

(a) Original entrance doors, steps, controls and lighting are not to be modified.

(b) Trap doors installed over entrance step shall not interfere with the operation of the service door. A means shall be provided to secure the trap door in an open position when the entrance door is opened.

16:53-4.4 Emergency equipment

Fire extinguisher shall be installed in a manner to be available for operation under all operating conditions.

16:53-4.5 Special installation

The installation of auxiliary engines, generators, microwave ovens, refrigerators, televisions, etc., shall be installed according to manufacturer's specifications and comply with Federal and State regulations.

16:53-4.6 Driver's partition

A partition shall be provided as required in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.5. In no case shall a door or similar device completely separate the driver from the interior of the bus.

16:53-4.7 Passenger signal

Passenger signals are not required.

SUBCHAPTER 5. CERTIFICATES

16:53-5.1 Statutory fee payment for issuance

(a) No Certificate of Compliance, as required by law and the rules and regulations of the Department, shall be issued to any person owning an autobus, small bus, van, or limousine, unless the statutory fee therefor, has been paid to the Department.

(b) No Certificate of Inspection, as required by N.J.A.C. 16:53-3 (Autobus Specifications) shall be issued to any person owning an autobus, small bus, van, or limousine, unless the statutory fee therefor has been paid to the Department.

(c) No Certificate of Inspection or Compliance shall be issued if payment of a statutory fee remains outstanding to the Department.

SUBCHAPTER 6. AUTOBUS SPECIFICATIONS FOR SMALL BUS

16:53-6.1 Scope

(a) The New Jersey Department of Transportation hereby adopts the rules and regulations relating to the safety of equipment as promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation (formerly ICC Motor Carriers Safety Regulations), presently set forth in Part 393, except as otherwise herein stated, entitled "Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation", as amended. A copy of these regulations entitled "Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carriers Safety Regulations" may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20423.

(b) Any small bus now in operation or acquired prior to June 1, 1989 and for which the Department has issued a Certificate of Compliance may continue in service as presently designed, constructed and equipped.

(c) The following specifications apply to all vehicles described herein in interstate or intrastate common carriers service subject to the Department's jurisdiction and for which a Certificate of Compliance of this Department is required.

(d) For purposes of this subchapter, a small bus shall be defined as a motor vehicle used in the transportation for hire having a seating capacity of 16 to 25 adult passengers, not including driver and comply with specifications in this subchapter.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Date changed in (b) from January 2, 1983 to June 1, 1989.

16:53-6.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"FMCSR" means Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

"FMVSS No. 217" means Federal Motor Carrier Safety Standard No. 217.

"GVW" means gross vehicle weight (weight of unloaded vehicle).

"GVAW" means gross vehicle axle weight.

"GVWR" means gross vehicle weight rated (weight of vehicle including load).

"Small bus" means a vehicle having a seating capacity of 16 to 25 adult passengers, not including the driver.

R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

16:53-6.3 Dimensions

(a) The overall length of the vehicle, including bumpers, shall not exceed 30 feet.

(b) No autobus with an outside width in excess of 102 inches will be approved unless request for approval is accompanied by a certificate of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Law and Public Safety, that the proposed width is not unsafe for use on the highways in this State and the Department of Transportation that the proposed width, if in excess of 102 inches, is not in conflict with the requirements of any agency of the United States having jurisdiction over the National Systems of Interstate and Defense Highways authorized by law. No outside width so prescribed shall be valid if the allowance or use of same would disqualify the State of New Jersey or any department, agency or governmental subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving Federal highway funds.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.2 and changed excessive width from above 96 inches to above 102 inches.

16:53-6.4 Chassis and body construction

(a) The chassis and body construction shall be of sufficient size and strength to safely support the Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) and the allowable payload, as recommended by the chassis manufacturer.

(b) Axles, springs, tires and suspension assemblies shall be of sufficient capacity to support the manufacturer's maximum GVWR.

(c) The GVWR certified by the manufacturer and the Gross Vehicle Axle Weight (GVAW) shall be indicated on a data plate affixed to the vehicle, readily visible. At no time shall the GVWR be exceeded.

(d) The body shall be mounted on an appropriate chassis and shall be free from sharp or jagged edges.

(e) Front and rear bumper shall be provided, attached to the main chassis frame of sufficient size and strength to permit the vehicle to be pushed or pulled without permanent distortion to bumper or chassis.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
From N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.3.

16:53-6.5 Equipment unit

(a) The vehicle shall be of the single unit type with the motive power and passenger compartment mounted as one unit.

(b) Trailers of any type are prohibited.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
From N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.4.

16:53-6.6 Interior

(a) Interior shall be free of all unnecessary projections. Body panels, seats, flooring and all other component parts of the body shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and be free from sharp or jagged edges, protruding nails, screws or similar objects.

(b) Interior shall be equipped with inner linings on ceilings and side walls covering all body bows and body supports.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
From N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.5.

16:53-6.7 Aisle

The center aisle of a "small bus" shall be not less than 12 inches wide and 68 inches high.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
From N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.6.

16:53-6.8 Seating

(a) A transverse seat width of not less than 15 inches shall be provided for each passenger on seats having multiple seating positions. Single seats shall provide a seat width of not less than 19 inches. Seats shall have unobstructed knee room of not less than seven inches across full width of seat.

(b) Seats shall be of substantial construction and securely mounted to the floor and/or sides. Perimeter seating is permitted when two stanchions are provided evenly spaced on each side of the aisle.

(c) Portable seats and seats not securely and permanently mounted to the floor are prohibited.

(d) Total number of passengers shall not exceed the seated capacity of the vehicle as specified by the manufacturer or the Department's rated seating capacity as designed on the Department's Certificate of Compliance.

(e) Wheelchair positions may be rear, longitudinal, diagonal or forward-facing.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
From N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.7.

16:53-6.9 Glazing

All glazing shall be of an approved type in accordance with the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles regulations.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.8.

16:53-6.10 Lights: reflectors

(a) Interior lighting shall be under control of the driver and sufficient in number to give adequate illumination.

(b) Exterior lights shall meet all applicable New Jersey and Federal requirements.

(c) Vehicles shall be equipped with approved rear reflectors on each side. Reflectors shall be mounted not over 60 inches nor less than 24 inches measured from the reflector center level to the ground.

(d) At least one step light shall be provided at each service door.

(e) Stop lights shall be separate and independent from all other rear lights.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.9.

16:53-6.11 Mirrors

(a) Interior and exterior mirrors shall be provided to insure a clear view of the vehicle interior and of the exterior sides to the rear.

(b) Exterior left and right side mirrors shall be of the junior west coast type or equivalent, low mount, firmly supported and easily adjustable.

(c) If desired, a video camera designed to view the exterior rear, in addition to rear view mirrors, may be installed so that the camera is inoperable while the vehicle is in a forward motion.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.10 and new (c) added.
 Amended by R.1990 d.3, effective January 2, 1990.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 3259(a), 22 N.J.R. 60(a).

In (c), added, "If desired, a . . ." and changed "shall" to "may be installed".

16:53-6.12 Brakes

(a) Brakes shall conform to the manufacturer's specifications applicable to the GVWR.

(b) Hydraulic service brake system shall be of the dual (SPLIT) type.

(c) Service brake shall be power-actuated and shall operate on all wheels.

(d) Service brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle in 25 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(e) Vehicles shall be equipped with two independent brake systems having two sets of controls and able to be actuated independently of each other.

(f) Emergency brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle in 66 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(g) Brakes stopping distances shall be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet.

1. Each autobus shall meet the brake stop requirement with an approved calibrated decelerometer.

2. Brake stop equipment shall be owned, or arrangements made for its use, or provided by others, or testing to be performed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.2.

3. The brake stop test shall be performed within 20 days prior to self inspection certification.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct brake tests at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(h) Brake drums and rotors shall be permanently and plainly marked and shall clearly indicate the maximum safe diameter of the drum or the minimum safe thickness of the rotor as determined by the manufacturer of the drum or rotor. A drum or rotor worn beyond the maximum safe diameter or minimum safe thickness as prescribed by industry standard shall be discarded.

(i) When emergency brake is activated by loss of system to main service brakes, driver without leaving seat, must be able to override emergency brake a minimum of three times. Control to operate override shall be of a "DEAD MAN" type, necessitating constant driver effort to use. All buses manufactured after March, 1975 and equipped with an air brake system must comply with FMVSS No. 121, pertaining to split system and emergency application.

(j) Any system source to activate emergency brake shall be separate and independent of main service brake system supply source.

(k) The braking distance will ordinarily be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet.

(l) Brake systems actuated by compressed air pressure or vacuum power shall be constructed to afford the following results:

1. Compressed air brake systems shall be equipped with an air compressor of sufficient size to fully charge the reservoir to its rated operating pressure in three minutes or less.

2. Reservoir capacity shall be sufficient to maintain 60 PSI after four full brake applications. This shall be accomplished with engine and compressor shut down.

3. Compressed air reservoirs system shall be equipped with a safety valve that shall vent to the atmosphere. Safety valve setting shall not be in excess of 1 1/2 times the maximum air compressor governed pressure setting. The safety valve shall be tested at intervals of not greater than six months.

4. Vacuum reservoirs shall have a volume of not less than 1,000 cubic inches and shall be used for braking purposes only.

5. Vacuum brake systems shall develop a minimum of 14 inches of reservoir vacuum within the following times:

- i. Intake manifold of engine one minute; and
- ii. Vacuum pump, two minutes.

(m) Brake systems shall be equipped with pressure or power gauge, indicating pounds per square inch located in clear view of the driver and illuminated during the period running lights are required.

(n) Buses equipped with brake systems actuated by compressed air or vacuum power shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal, within hearing or full view of the driver to indicate that air or vacuum pressure is dangerously low.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.11 and 1.-4. added at (g).

16:53-6.13 Tires and wheels

(a) Vehicles shall be equipped with tires and wheels of sufficient size and construction as recommended by the manufacturers to meet the GVWR.

(b) Vehicles shall not be operated on any tire having exposed fabric (liner) on tread or sidewall.

(c) Front tires shall have a minimum tread groove of 4/32 inches. Rear tires shall have a minimum tread groove of 2.32 inches. Measurements to be made at any point on a major tread groove except where tie bars, humps or fillets are located.

(d) Vehicle shall not be operated with regrooved, re-capped, or retread tires on any wheel, except on axles having dual wheels.

(e) Vehicle shall be equipped with tires that are matched in size designation, construction and profile. Radial tires are not to be mixed with other types on same axle.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Formerly 16:53-6.12.

16:53-6.14 Heating and ventilation

(a) An adequate heating system capable of heating the passenger section to a temperature of at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit, whenever required, shall be provided.

(b) Heating systems using exhaust gas to heat air carried within the passenger section or exhaust gas passing through conductors within the passenger section are prohibited.

(c) Heating devices using gasoline or other fuel shall be of a type approved by a recognized Underwriter's Laboratory and conform with FMCSR Part 393.77 and shall be located outside of the passenger section.

(d) Every autobus shall be equipped with a system of ventilation capable of distributing an adequate supply of fresh air throughout the passenger section.

(e) Every autobus equipped with at least 90 percent non-operational sash shall be equipped with a suitable air conditioner in good operating condition and shall be in operating condition during the months between June 1 and September 15 of each year.

(f) The above requirements shall pertain to all autobuses, notwithstanding N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.1(c).

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.13.

16:53-6.15 Fuel tanks and fuel systems

(a) Fuel tanks and systems shall meet all applicable Federal requirements as set forth in Part 301 of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard.

(b) Fuel tanks and filler pipes shall be located wholly outside of the body, to the rear of the line of the windshield and/or front axle as physical conditions may indicate and be properly insulated to prevent danger of fire.

(c) Fuel tanks shall be so constructed and located in a manner that will permit filling and drainage from the outside of the vehicle only.

(d) Filler pipe caps shall fit snugly to prevent fuel leakage.

(e) Fuel and any other combustible materials and compressed gases, except fire extinguishers, shall not be carried or stored in the passenger compartment.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.14.

16:53-6.16 Exhaust system

(a) Exhaust system shall be free of leaks and securely installed and entirely outside of the vehicle body and equipped with an appropriate muffler. Flexible pipe or tubing shall be prohibited in exhaust systems.

(b) Exhaust system shall vent to the rear or on the street side to the rear of the rear wheels.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent emission of unnecessary smoke or vapor. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Standard applicable to type of engine installed.

1. Each autobus exhaust emission system shall be inspected utilizing equipment approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Inspection of the exhaust emission system may be conducted by the autobus company, by a person chosen by the company or by New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.1.

3. Each autobus shall be inspected every six months by a person qualified to conduct emission testing. Inspections shall be completed no later than 20 days prior to the expiration date indicated on the sticker issued by the Department. Inspections performed by any person other than New Jersey Department of Transportation personnel require a certification from the individual conducting such inspection, indicating his or her qualifications to conduct such a test and the type of equipment used.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct exhaust emission test at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or otherwise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.15 and 1.-4. added at (c) regarding exhaust emission inspection.

16:53-6.17 Windshield wipers and washers

(a) Vehicles shall be equipped with at least two windshield wipers and washers, sufficient in size and power and maintained so as to provide the driver with a clear forward

vision. Windshield wipers shall be located on each side of the windshield center line.

(b) Windshield wipers shall be of variable speed and electrically operated.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.16.

16:53-6.18 Steps

(a) The first step at the entrance area shall not be less than 10 inches nor more than 16 inches from the ground when the vehicle is unloaded.

(b) Surface of all steps shall be of a skid-resistant material.

(c) Steps shall not extend beyond body limits to a degree which could possibly result in bodily injury or property damage.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.17.

16:53-6.19 Sun visor

Vehicles shall be equipped with an adequate interior sun visor for driver use.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.18.

16:53-6.20 Baggage racks and compartments

(a) Exterior baggage racks shall be constructed so that all baggage will be held in a secure, safe manner under all conditions of operation.

(b) Ladders or any other similar means of reaching the exterior baggage racks shall be prohibited unless protection is provided that will prevent the possibility of ride hitching.

(c) Interior baggage area will be separated from the passenger compartment by a plexiglass or similar material partition of at least 3/8 inches thick or of rigid plastic of the approved type—AS-4 through 13, or a metal grill of sufficient strength and construction properly installed in a workmanlike manner to safely separate the areas. Interior baggage shall be carried in a manner so as not to interfere with any passenger seat, safety or comfort.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
 Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.19.

16:53-6.21 Identification

(a) No autobus shall be operated unless it displays on each side of its exterior, in clearly visible letters the exact name of the operator, at least three inches in height.

(b) Every autobus shall be assigned an identifying number by the utility. This number shall be displayed on the interior front, and the front, rear, and both sides of the exterior. Interior and exterior numbers shall be at least three inches in height and of a sharply contrasting color from the background. The number at the rear shall be displayed at least 60 inches from the ground.

(c) Each autobus shall display on the right-hand side thereof, the number of the Department's Certificate of Compliance and the charter number, if applicable, in letters and figures three inches high in the following style: NJDOT 12345 and/or NJDOT 123C.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.20.

16:53-6.22 Certificate of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.30(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicles once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in 16:53-6.30(c).

(c) No certification of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.30(e).

(d) No autobus shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certification of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(e) All autobuses operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).
Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.21.

16:53-6.23 Drive shaft

Any drive shaft extending lengthwise under the floor of the passenger compartment of a bus except buses having a seating capacity of eight or less passengers, shall be protected by means of at least one guard or bracket at the end of the shaft which is provided with a sliding connection (spline or other such device) to prevent the whipping of the shaft in the event of failure thereof or of any of its component parts. A shaft contained within a torque tube shall not require any such device.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.22.

16:53-6.24 Signs

(a) An illuminated sign indicating route where applicable, and destination shall be provided so designed and located that it may be read by day or night. This sign must not interfere with the driver's view or produce an annoying glare.

(b) The requirement for destination sign may be omitted in certain instances provided the operator receives written approval from the Department.

(c) A sign shall be provided indicating that smoking on autobuses is prohibited by law.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.23.

16:53-6.25 Overhang of body

(a) The maximum overhang of body to rear of the rear axle shall not be in excess of one-third of the total length of the vehicle.

(b) Vehicle measurements are to be taken from the extreme front to the extreme rear of the vehicle, not including bumpers.

(c) Overhang measurements are to be taken from the center of the rear axle to the extreme rear end of the bus, not including rear bumper.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.24.

16:53-6.26 Speedometers

Each autobus shall be equipped with a suitable speedometer which shall be operative with reasonable accuracy in miles per hour and readily visible to the driver. A method of recording accumulated miles shall also be provided.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Recodified from N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.25 and added requirement that a method for measuring accumulated miles be provided.

16:53-6.27 Signaling device

Each autobus shall be equipped with a horn or other signaling device to give reasonable warning to other users of the highway of the approach of the vehicle.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.26.

16:53-6.28 Grounding device

Each autobus, unless otherwise designed to eliminate static electric charge buildup, shall be equipped with a suitable grounding device.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.27.

16:53-6.29 Partition and curtain

All autobuses shall be equipped with a partition of wood, metal and wire glass, safety glass or plexiglass at least ¾ inches thick or rigid plastic of the approved type AS-4 or AS-5, and located to the rear of the driver's seat with a suitable curtain or tinting, if necessary, to shield the driver from the glare of inside lights. The minimum dimensions of driver's partitions shall be 18 inches wide and shall extend upward from at least two inches below the top of the driver's seat back to not less than 18 inches from the ceiling.

Amended by R.1986 d.399, effective October 6, 1986.
See: 18 N.J.R. 1519(b), 18 N.J.R. 2058(c).
Added text "The minimum dimension . . . from the ceiling."
Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.28.

16:53-6.30 Bumpers

(a) Each autobus shall be equipped with a front and rear bumper attached to the main frame supporting the body.

(b) The rear bumper shall extend at least four inches beyond the body limits and be shielded on the top to prevent toehold, except on an autobus constructed with its engine attached to the extreme rear end of the chassis frame or one having similarly sized compartment between the extreme rear of the bus body and rear seat in the passenger compartment.

Amended by R.1986 d.399, effective October 6, 1986.
See: 18 N.J.R. 1519(b), 18 N.J.R. 2058(c).
Added text, "except on an . . . the passenger compartment."
Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.29.

16:53-6.31 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to ensure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificate of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and correction measures taken. The records shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.21, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication records, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection, for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certificated for school use. They will be inspected bi-annually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).
Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).
Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.30.

16:53-6.32 Special equipment

Special equipment used to transport passengers in wheel-chairs must comply with N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.7.

Recodified by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Formerly N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.31.

SUBCHAPTER 7. SPECIFICATIONS FOR SPECIAL AUTOBUS TYPE RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

16:53-7.1 Scope

(a) The following specifications apply to all vehicles described herein, subject to the Department's jurisdiction, and for which a Certificate of Compliance of this Department is required.

(b) For purposes of this subchapter, a special autobus type recreational vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle used in resort areas or areas of public interest on public streets.

(c) Any vehicle now in operation or acquired prior to June 1, 1989, and for which this Department has issued a Certificate of Compliance may continue in service as presently designed, constructed and equipped.

(d) For purposes of this subchapter, while carrying passengers, said vehicle shall have an operable device which restricts the maximum speed (Governor) of the vehicle to 25 miles per hour.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

In (c), date changed from January 2, 1983 to June 1, 1989.

16:53-7.2 Dimensions

(a) The overall length of the vehicle, including bumpers, shall not exceed 30 feet.

(b) No autobus with an outside width in excess of 102 inches will be approved unless the request for approval is accompanied by a certificate of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Law and Public Safety, that the proposed width is not unsafe for use on the highways in this State and of the Department of Transportation that the proposed width, if in excess of 102 inches, is not in conflict with the requirements of any agency of the United States having jurisdiction over the National Systems of Interstate and Defense Highways authorized by law. No outside width so prescribed shall be valid if the allowance or use of same would disqualify the State of New Jersey or any department, agency or governmental subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving Federal highway funds.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Excess width of 96 inches changed to 102 inches.

16:53-7.3 Chassis and body construction

(a) The chassis and body construction shall be of sufficient size and strength to safely support the gross vehicle weight (GVW) and the allowable payload, as recommended by the chassis manufacturer.

(b) Axles, springs, tire and suspension assemblies shall be of sufficient capacity to support the manufacturer's maximum GVWR.

(c) The GVWR certified by the manufacturer and the gross vehicle axle weight (GVAW) shall be indicated on a data plate affixed to the vehicle, readily visible. At no time shall the GVWR be exceeded.

(d) The body shall be mounted on an appropriate chassis and shall be free from sharp or jagged edges.

16:53-7.4 Equipment unit

(a) The vehicle shall be of the single unit type with the motive power and passenger compartment mounted as one unit.

(b) Trailers of any type are prohibited.

16:53-7.5 Interior

Interior shall be free of all unnecessary projections. Body panels, seats, flooring and all other component parts of the body shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and be free from sharp or jagged edges, protruding nails, screws or similar objects.

16:53-7.6 Aisle

The center aisle of a "recreational type vehicle" shall not be less than 14 inches wide and 68 inches high.

16:53-7.7 Seating

(a) A transverse seat space of not less than 15 inches shall be provided for each passenger on seats having multiple seating positions. Single seats shall provide a seat space of not less than 19 inches. Seats shall have unobstructed knee room of not less than seven inches across full width of seat.

(b) Seats shall be of substantial construction and securely mounted to the floor and/or sides.

(c) Portable seats and seats not securely and permanently mounted to the floor are prohibited.

(d) Total number of passengers shall not exceed the capacity of the vehicle as specified by the manufacturer or the Department's rated capacity as designated on the Department's Certificate of Compliance.

16:53-7.8 Glazing

All glazing shall be of an approved type in accordance with the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicle regulations.

16:53-7.9 Lights: reflectors

(a) Interior lighting shall be under control of the driver and sufficient in number to give adequate illumination.

(b) Exterior lights shall meet all applicable New Jersey and Federal requirements.

(c) Vehicles shall be equipped with approved rear reflectors on each side. Reflectors shall be mounted not over 60 inches nor less than 24 inches measured from the reflector center level to the ground.

(d) At least one step light shall be provided at each service door.

16:53-7.10 Mirrors

Interior and exterior mirrors shall be provided to insure a clear view of the vehicle interior and of the exterior sides to the rear.

16:53-7.11 Brakes

(a) Brakes shall conform to the manufacturer's specifications applicable to the GVWR.

(b) Hydraulic service brake system shall be of the dual (SPLIT) type.

(c) Service brakes shall be power-actuated and shall operate on all wheels.

(d) Service brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle in 25 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(e) Vehicle shall be equipped with two independent brake systems having two sets of controls and able to be actuated independently of each other.

(f) Emergency brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle in 66 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(g) Brake stopping distances shall be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet.

1. Each autobus shall meet the brake stop requirement with an approved and calibrated decelerometer.

2. Brake stop equipment shall be owned, or arrangements made for its use, or provided by others, or testing to be performed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.2.

3. The brake stop test shall be performed within 20 days prior to self inspection certification.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct brake tests at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(h) Brake drums and rotors shall be permanently and plainly marked and shall clearly indicate the maximum safe diameter of the drum or the minimum safe thickness of the rotor as determined by the manufacturer of the drum or rotor. A drum or rotor worn beyond the maximum safe diameter of minimum safe thickness as prescribed by industry standard shall be discarded.

(i) When emergency brake is activated by loss of system to main service brakes, driver without leaving seat, must be able to override emergency brake a minimum of three times. Control to operate override shall be of a "DEAD MAN" type, necessitating constant driver effort to use. All buses manufactured after March, 1975 equipped with an air brake system must comply with FMVSS 121, pertaining to split system and emergency application.

(j) Any systems source to activate emergency brake shall be separate and independent of main service brake system supply source.

(k) The braking distance will ordinarily be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet.

(l) Brake systems actuated by compressed air pressure or vacuum power shall be constructed to afford the following results:

1. Compressed air brake system shall be equipped with an air compressor of sufficient size to fully charge the reservoir to its rated operating pressure in three minutes or less.

2. Reservoir capacity shall be sufficient to maintain 60 PSI after four full brake applications. This shall be accomplished with engine and compressor shut down.

3. Compressed air reservoirs system shall be equipped with a safety valve that shall vent to the atmosphere. Safety valve setting shall not be in excess of 1 1/2 times the maximum air compressor governed pressure setting. The safety valve shall be tested at intervals of not greater than six months.

4. Vacuum reservoirs shall have a volume of not less than 1,000 cubic inches and shall be used for braking purposes only.

5. Vacuum brake systems shall develop a minimum of 14 inches of reservoir vacuum within the following times:

- i. Intake manifold of engine one minute; and
- ii. Vacuum pump, two minutes.

(m) Brake systems shall be equipped with pressure or power gauge, indicating pounds per square inch located in clear view of the driver and illuminated during the period when running lights are required.

(n) Buses equipped with brake systems actuated by compressed air or vacuum power shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal, within hearing or full view of the driver to indicate that air or vacuum pressure is dangerously low.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (g) added 1.-4. regarding brake stop requirements.

16:53-7.12 Tires and wheels

(a) Vehicles shall be equipped with tires and wheels of sufficient size and construction as recommended by the manufacturer to meet the GVWR.

(b) Vehicles shall not be operated on any tire having exposed fabric (liner) on tread or sidewall.

(c) Front tires shall have a minimum tread groove of 4/32 inches. Rear tires shall have a minimum tread groove of 2/32 inches. Measurements to be made at any point on a major tread groove except where tie bars, humps or fillets are located.

(d) Vehicles shall not be operated with regrooved, re-capped or retread tires on any wheel, except on axles having dual wheels.

(e) Vehicles shall be equipped with tires that are matched in size designation, construction and profile. Radial tires are not to be mixed with other types on same axle.

16:53-7.13 Fuel tanks and fuel systems

(a) Fuel tanks and filler pipes shall be located wholly outside of the body, to the rear of the line of the windshield and/or front axle as physical conditions may indicate and be properly insulated to prevent danger of fire.

(b) Fuel tanks shall be so constructed and located in a manner that will permit filling and draining from the outside of the vehicle only.

(c) Filler pipe caps shall be attached and fit snugly to prevent fuel leakage.

(d) Fuel and any other combustible materials and compressed gases, except fire extinguishers, shall not be carried or stored in the passenger compartment.

16:53-7.14 Exhaust system

(a) Exhaust system shall be free of leaks and securely installed and entirely outside of the vehicle body and equipped with an appropriate muffler. Flexible pipe or tubing shall be prohibited in exhaust systems.

(b) Exhaust system shall vent to the rear of the rear wheels.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent emission of unnecessary smoke or vapor. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Motor Vehicle emission inspection standard applicable to type of engine installed.

1. Each autobus exhaust emission system shall be inspected utilizing equipment approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Inspection of the autobus exhaust emission may be conducted by the vehicle company, by a designated person chosen by the company or by New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.1.

3. Each autobus shall be inspected every six months by a person qualified to conduct emission testing. Inspections shall be completed no later than 20 days prior to the expiration date indicated on the sticker issued by the Department. Inspection performed by any person other than New Jersey Department of Transportation personnel requires a certification from the individual conducting such inspection indicating his or her qualifications to conduct such a test and the type of equipment used.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct exhaust emission test at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or otherwise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (c), added 1.-4. regarding autobus exhaust emission system inspections.

16:53-7.15 Windshield wipers and defroster

(a) Vehicles shall be equipped with at least two windshield wipers sufficient in size and power and maintained so as to provide the driver with a clear forward vision. Windshield wipers shall be located on each side of the windshield center line.

(b) Windshield wipers shall be of variable speed and electrically operated.

(c) Vehicles shall be equipped with a suitable windshield defroster.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

(c) added requiring windshield defroster.

16:53-7.16 Steps

(a) The first step at the entrance area shall not be less than 10 inches nor more than 16 inches from the ground when the vehicle is unloaded.

(b) Surface of all steps shall be of a skid-resistant material.

(c) Steps shall not extend beyond body limits to a degree which could possibly result in bodily injury or property damage.

16:53-7.17 Certification of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-7.23(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in 16:53-7.23(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required Certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in 16:53-7.23(e).

(d) No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(e) All vehicles operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

16:53-7.18 Drive shaft

Any drive shaft extending lengthwise under the floor of the passenger compartment of a vehicle shall be protected by means of at least one guard or bracket at the end of the shaft which is provided with a sliding connection (spline or other such device) to prevent the whipping of the shaft in

the event of failure thereof or of any of its component parts. A shaft contained within a torque tube shall not require any such device.

16:53-7.19 Overhang of body

(a) The maximum overhang of body to rear of the rear axle shall not be in excess of one-third of the total length of the vehicle.

(b) Vehicle measurements are to be taken from the extreme front to the extreme rear of the vehicle, not including bumpers.

(c) Overhang measurements are to be taken from the center of the rear axle to the extreme rear end of the vehicle, not including the bumper.

16:53-7.20 Speedometer

Each vehicle shall be equipped with a suitable speedometer which shall be operative with reasonable accuracy in miles per hour and readily visible to the driver. A method of recording accumulated miles shall also be provided.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Required a method of recording accumulated miles.

16:53-7.21 Signaling device

Each vehicle shall be equipped with a horn or other signaling device to give reasonable warning to other users of the highway of the approach of the vehicle.

16:53-7.22 Grounding device

Each vehicle, unless otherwise designed to eliminate static electric charge buildup, shall be equipped with a suitable grounding device.

16:53-7.23 Maintenance

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to insure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date

of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The record shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-7.17, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection, for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certified for school use. They will be inspected biannually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

16:53-7.24 Identification

(a) No autobus shall be operated unless it displays on each side of its exterior, the exact name of the operator in clearly visible letters at least three inches in height.

(b) Every autobus shall be assigned an identifying number by the utility. This number must be displayed on the interior front and the front, rear and both sides of the exterior. Interior and exterior numbers shall be at least three inches in height and of a sharply contrasting color from the background.

(c) Each autobus shall display on the right-hand side thereof, the number of the Department's Certificate of Compliance and the charter number, if applicable, in letters and figures three inches in height in the following style: NJDOT 12345 and/or NJDOT 123C.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Added the display of charter number if applicable.

16:53-7.25 Window openings

(a) Window opening shall be restricted to a maximum of six inches.

(b) Open-air special autobus type recreational vehicles shall meet the following requirements:

1. The vertical distance between a seat-bottom and any opening shall be a minimum of 16 inches. Vehicles not meeting this requirement shall have protective bars extending from the front to the rear of the opening. Bars shall be spaced no more than six inches apart, and the distance from the seat-bottom to the top of the highest bar shall be a minimum of 16 inches.

New Rule, R.1993 d.191, effective May 3, 1993.
See: 24 N.J.R. 4500(a), 25 N.J.R. 1885(b).

16:53-7.26 Platforms

(a) Special autobus type recreational vehicles designed and/or constructed with platforms attached to the rear of the vehicle shall meet the following requirements:

1. No person shall be permitted to stand or ride on the platform.
2. Any door leading to the platform from the interior of the vehicle shall display a sign, with a minimum of three inch letters, stating "Emergency Exit Only" and shall conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 217, as applicable.
3. The door shall not be locked while the vehicle is in operation.

New Rule, R.1993 d.191, effective May 3, 1993.
See: 24 N.J.R. 4500(a), 25 N.J.R. 1885(b).

16:53-7.27 Curtains

Curtains are permitted to be used while a vehicle is in operation, during time of inclement weather only, provided all State and Federal regulations pertaining to emergency egress as defined in FMVSS 217 are met.

New Rule, R.1993 d.191, effective May 3, 1993.
See: 24 N.J.R. 4500(a), 25 N.J.R. 1885(b).

SUBCHAPTER 8. SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEDAN-TYPE AUTOBUSES

16:53-8.1 Scope

(a) The following specifications apply to sedan-type autobuses in interstate or intrastate common carrier service subject to the New Jersey Department of Transportation's jurisdiction.

(b) The Department of Transportation hereby adopts the rules and regulations relating to the safety of equipment as promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation, presently set forth in Part 393, except as otherwise stated herein entitled "Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation", as amended. A copy of these regulations entitled "Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations", may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20423.

(c) Any sedan-type autobus now in operation or acquired prior to June 1, 1989, and for which the Department has issued a Certificate of Compliance, may continue in service as presently designed, constructed and equipped.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Date changed from January 2, 1983 to June 1, 1989.

16:53-8.2 Definition

Sedan-type autobus means a motor vehicle having a capacity of 12 or less passengers, including the driver, with seats extending across the body and having a door at each side of vehicle at each row of seats having construction characteristics commonly referred to as a sedan.

16:53-8.3 Dimensions

(a) The overall length of vehicle, including bumpers, shall not exceed 300 inches.

(b) The overall width of vehicle shall not exceed 84 inches measured at the widest point of the body, excluding mirrors, fender moldings and other similar accessories which shall not be included in determining body width.

16:53-8.4 Seating

(a) A transverse seat space of not less than 15 inches shall be provided for each passenger.

(b) No portable seat or seats, not securely fastened to the floor, shall be permitted.

(c) The front seat shall not be occupied by more than one passenger besides the driver.

(d) No passengers in excess of seated capacity shall be transported.

16:53-8.5 Doors

(a) A door must be provided on each side of the vehicle at each cross seat.

(b) Doors located to the rear of the driver, on vehicles having altered the standard chassis, shall be equipped with an audible or visible signal indicating to the driver when the door is not completely closed.

(c) All doors shall be so constructed and maintained in such condition as to be readily opened from both inside and outside of the vehicle.

16:53-8.6 Fire extinguisher

(a) All vehicles shall be equipped with at least one fire extinguisher and shall have an approved Underwriter's Laboratories rating of 5BC or more, as provided in Part 393.95. The use of vaporizing liquid type fire extinguisher is prohibited.

(b) Fire extinguishers are to be located in the passenger compartment.

16:53-8.7 Lights

(a) Interior lights, under control of the driver, shall be sufficient in number to give adequate illumination at each row of seats.

(b) Each vehicle shall be equipped with front and rear running lights and stop lights located and maintained in accordance with current Federal and New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles requirements.

(c) Each vehicle shall be equipped with at least two rear red reflectors of an approved type, at least one at each side.

16:53-8.8 Chassis and body

(a) The chassis and body or complete unit shall be so designed and constructed that it will properly and safely support the gross weight of the vehicle, including the capacity passenger load. The GVWR shall not exceed 10,000 pounds.

(b) No extensions of the manufacturer's standard chassis frame will be permitted except as set forth in (c) below.

(c) Altering of the wheelbase or the standard chassis frame in any manner shall be permitted when work is performed by the chassis or unit manufacturer or by others on a Certification of Approval by the original manufacturer. Such certification is to contain a detailed description of the extension. An extension may be installed at the rear end of the original chassis frame by the chassis manufacturer or on the chassis manufacturer's Certificate of Approval of such extension.

(d) The GVWR certified by the manufacturer and the gross vehicle axle weight (GVAW) shall be indicated on a data plate affixed to the vehicle, readily visible. At no time shall the GVWR be exceeded.

(e) Each vehicle shall be equipped with bumpers, front and rear, attached to the main frame of the chassis.

16:53-8.9 Brakes

(a) Each vehicle shall be equipped with two independent brake systems operating independently of each other and

conforming to the following standards of construction and maintenance:

1. Service (foot) brakes shall be power-actuated and shall operate on all wheels;
2. Service (foot) brakes equipped with a hydraulic system shall be of a dual type, split to the front and rear wheels;
3. Service (foot) brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle in 25 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour;
4. Emergency brakes shall be constructed and maintained to stop the vehicle in 66 feet or less from a speed of 20 miles per hour;
5. The braking distance shall be measured by means of an instrument or machine of the decelerometer type capable of being read in feet:
 - i. Each autobus shall meet the brake stop requirement with an approved and calibrated decelerometer.
 - ii. Brake stop equipment shall be owned, or arrangements made for its use, or provided by others, or testing to be performed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.2.
 - iii. The brake stop test shall be performed within 20 days prior to self inspection certification.
 - iv. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct brake tests at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided; and
6. Brake drums and rotors shall be permanently and plainly marked and shall clearly indicate the maximum safe diameter of the drum or the minimum safe thickness of the rotor as determined by the manufacturer of the drum or rotor. A drum or rotor worn beyond the maximum safe diameter of minimum safe thickness as prescribed by industry standards shall be discarded.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

Added i.-iv. at (a)5.

16:53-8.10 Mirrors

Inside and outside mirrors shall be provided to insure clear vision of traffic to the sides and rear of the vehicle.

16:53-8.11 Tires and wheels

(a) Each vehicle shall be equipped with tires and wheels of proper size and construction, as recommended by the manufacturer to meet the GVWR, in accordance with Federal regulations.

(b) Vehicle shall not be operated on any tire having exposed fabric on tread or sidewall.

(c) Recapped, regrooved or retreaded tires shall not be permitted.

(d) Front and rear tires shall have a minimum tread groove of 2/32 inches. Measurements to be made at any point on a major tread groove except where tie bars, humps or fillets are located.

(e) Vehicles shall be equipped with tires that are matched in size designation, construction and profile. Radial tires are not to be mixed with other types on same axle.

16:53-8.12 Windshield wipers and washers

(a) Each vehicle shall be equipped with at least two windshield wipers and washers, sufficient in size and power to provide the driver with clear forward vision. Windshield wipers shall be located on each side of the windshield center line.

(b) Each vehicle shall be equipped with a suitable windshield defrosting device.

16:53-8.13 Heaters and defrosters

(a) Each vehicle shall be equipped with a suitable and efficient heating and defrosting system maintained in proper operating condition.

(b) Exhaust gases shall not be used to heat the air within the passenger compartment.

(c) Heating devices using gasoline or other fuel must be approved by the Underwriter's Laboratories and must be located entirely outside of the passenger compartment.

16:53-8.14 Fuel tanks and fuel systems

(a) Fuel tanks and filler pipes shall be located wholly outside of the body and in rear of the line of the windshield and shall be properly insulated to prevent danger of fire.

(b) Fuel tanks shall be so constructed and located that they can be filled and drained only from the outside of the vehicle.

(c) Filler caps shall be attached and fit snugly to prevent leakage of fuel.

(d) Fuel and any other liquid combustible material and compressed gases (except fire extinguisher) shall not be carried or stored in the passenger compartment.

16:53-8.15 Exhaust systems

(a) Exhaust system shall vent to the rear of the rear wheels.

(b) All parts of the exhaust system shall be securely installed entirely outside of the body. No flexible pipe or tubing will be permitted in exhaust system.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent discharge of unnecessary fumes or gases. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Standards, applicable to type of engine installed.

1. Each autobus exhaust emission system shall be inspected utilizing equipment approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Inspection of the exhaust emission system may be conducted by the autobus company, by a person chosen by the company or by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-10.1.

3. Each autobus shall be inspected every six months by a person qualified to conduct emission testing. Inspections shall be completed no later than 20 days prior to the expiration date indicated on the sticker issued by the Department. Inspections performed by any person other than New Jersey Department of Transportation personnel require a certification from the individual conducting such inspection indicating his or her qualifications to conduct such a test and the type of equipment used.

4. The New Jersey Department of Transportation will provide facilities to conduct exhaust emission test at various geographic locations. A monthly schedule for testing will be provided.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or otherwise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components, or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

Amended by R.1989 d.392, effective July 17, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1098(a), 21 N.J.R. 2051(b).

At (c) added 1.-4. regarding exhaust emission system inspections.

16:53-8.16 Drive shaft

Any drive shaft extending lengthwise under the floor of the passenger compartment of a limousine except limousines having a seating capacity of five or less passengers, shall be protected by means of at least one guard or bracket at the end of the shaft which is provided with a sliding connection (spline or other such device) to prevent the whipping of the shaft in the event of failure thereof or of any of its component parts. A shaft contained within a torque tube shall not require any such device.

16:53-8.17 Glass

All glazing shall be of a type approved by the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles.

16:53-8.18 Directional signals

Each vehicle shall be equipped with directional signals of a type approved by the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles.

16:53-8.19 Signaling device

Each vehicle shall be equipped with a horn or other signaling device to give reasonable warning to other users of the highway of the approach of the vehicle.

16:53-8.20 Speedometers

Each vehicle shall be equipped with a suitable speedometer which shall be operative with reasonable accuracy in miles per hour and readily visible to the driver.

16:53-8.21 Identification

(a) Sedan-type vehicles will be identified by PUC-LIM license plates furnished by the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles after approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

(b) Limousine operators, at their discretion, may further identify themselves in the following manner:

1. The exact name of the operator on each side of its exterior in clearly visible letters.

(c) No vehicle shall be operated unless it displays under the hood on the right front wheel well, an identifying number and the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Certificate of Compliance number in the following style: NJDOT L123.

16:53-8.22 Certificate of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.25(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certification of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirements (N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.25(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.25(e).

(d) No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays on the lower right-hand corner of the windshield, visible from the exterior, an unexpired Certification of Inspection issued by the Department.

(e) All vehicles operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certification of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

16:53-8.23 Trailers

The use of any type of trailer is prohibited.

16:53-8.24 Baggage racks

(a) Exterior baggage racks will be permitted only if they are constructed so that all baggage will be held in a secure, safe manner.

16:53-8.25 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to ensure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificate of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The records shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.22, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection, for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each six month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certificated for school use. They will be inspected biannually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by the New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

As amended, R.1983 d.445, effective October 17, 1983.
See: 15 N.J.R. 877(b), 15 N.J.R. 1771(a).

16:53-8.26 Inspection and Certificate of Inspection

(a) All vehicles for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall be inspected at least twice annually. Nothing contained herein shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent inspection of such autobuses when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(b) No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(c) On vehicles where the chassis has been altered, they shall be subject to quarterly inspection.

(d) All vehicles operating in the State shall be subject to periodic road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

SUBCHAPTER 9. PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

16:53-9.1 Certificate of insurance or evidence of self-insurance

(a) Any person operating motor vehicles carrying passengers for hire in accordance with the applicable statutes shall file with the Department three copies of a certificate of insurance or evidence of self-insurance, which shall be in a form prescribed by the Department.

(b) Said certificate or evidence shall be signed by the issuing insurance company, or in the case of self-insurer, by an officer or agent thereof, and shall state that autobuses are insured in compliance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-19 and 48:4-35 through 48:4-55.

(c) Every certificate of insurance shall contain a provision for continuing liability and shall provide that cancellation thereof shall not be effective unless at least 30 days' notice in writing of intention to cancel has been delivered to this Department.

(d) Termination by replacement: Certificates of insurance which have been accepted by the Commissioner of Transportation under this section may be replaced by other certificates of insurance. The liability of the retiring insurer under such certificates of insurance shall be considered as having been terminated as of the effective date of the replacement certificate of insurance, provided the certificate meets all of the following conditions:

1. It must be acceptable to the Commissioner under this Part;
2. It must be accompanied by a letter of authorization, in duplicate, signed by the motor carrier involved or an authorized employee of such motor carrier, authorizing such replacement and verifying the effective date thereof; and
3. Its effective date must coincide with the effective date specified in the letter of authorization and the said date may not be more than 30 days' prior to the date of receipt of the letter of authorization and replacement certificate by the Commissioner.
4. Notwithstanding the requirements of (e) through (i) below, a replacement certificate may be in the form of an AIP Designation Notice Card. An AIP Designation Notice Card shall be valid as a replacement certificate for a period of 60 days from the date of the letter of authorization. The letter of authorization shall refer specifically to the use of the AIP Designation Notice Card as a replacement certificate and shall warrant that the Department shall be notified immediately upon the insured's receipt of actual or constructive notice of cancellation.

(e) Certificate of insurance shall contain a provision for a continuing liability notwithstanding any recovery thereunder.

(f) Every certificate of insurance shall provide that cancellation thereof shall not be effective until at least 30 days' notice in writing of intention to cancel has been delivered to the Commissioner; such cancellation notice shall be in the form set forth in (i) below, designated "Form K—Uniform Notice of Cancellation of Motor Carrier Insurance Policies." If such cancelled insurance policy is reinstated, a new certificate, in form provided by this section, shall be filed with the Commissioner except there shall be typed or printed thereon, in capital letters, the words "REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE POLICY."

(g) Certificates of insurance shall be in accordance with the forms set forth in (i) below, designated "Form E—Uniform Motor Carrier Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Certificate of Insurance."

(h) When a certificate of insurance is filed as provided in (i) below, there shall be attached to the original policy of insurance, an endorsement marked "Form F—Uniform Motor Carrier Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Insurance Endorsement."

(i) All insurance filings under N.J.S.A. 48:4-19 and 48:4-35 through 48:4-55 shall be made at the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Inspection, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, on the specified forms:

1. Form E—"Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability"; together with;
2. Form F—"Endorsement";
3. Form K—"Notice of Cancellation of Motor Carrier Insurance Policies".

(j) The Commissioner will consider applications for permission to establish insurance funds in lieu of filing certificates of insurance. Until such authority is granted, certificates evidencing insurance, must be filed. Until otherwise ordered, all orders and certificates of the Commissioner authorizing or directing bus lines and street railway corporations operating buses to establish and maintain self-insurance funds shall continue in full force and effect insofar as said orders or certificates authorize the carriers therein named to be self-insurers. Every person, firm, association and corporation which maintains a self-insurance fund pursuant to authority granted by the Commissioner shall procure, maintain and file with the Commissioner a policy of insurance to cover the difference between the amounts such carrier is authorized to self-insure and the amounts herein prescribed.

(k) No certificate of insurance shall be filed with the Commissioner unless a direct contractual relationship exists between the motor carrier and the insurance company making the filing.

(l) All filings shall be executed in triplicate on the proper form as specified above. The Commissioner may, at any time, refuse to accept a certificate of insurance if in his judgment it does not provide adequate protection for the public.

(m) No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be issued nor shall any previously issued certificate remain in force, unless all of the foregoing provisions are complied with.

(n) The Department shall not issue any certificate of compliance for any vehicle owned by a motor carrier that avails itself of (e)4 above, if title to such vehicle was acquired by the motor carrier after the effective date of the replacement certificate. The Department may issue a certificate of compliance for vehicles owned by such a motor carrier when a replacement certificate is filed in accordance with the conditions of (d)1 through 3 above.

Emergency Amendment, R.1985 d.445, effective August 8, 1985 (expires October 7, 1985).

See: 17 N.J.R. 2149(a).

Added (d)4 and (n).

Amended by R.1985 d.574, effective November 18, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2149(a), 17 N.J.R. 2783(a).

(d)4 and (n) added.

Amended by R.1986 d.216, effective June 16, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 626(a), 18 N.J.R. 1310(b).

Substituted "AIP Designation Notice Card" for "binder".

16:53-9.2 Buses

(a) All buses shall be insured covering operation in the State of New Jersey in the business of their owners and/or others, and whether in regular or other service, and whether on or off their regular routes.

(b) The driver of each bus shall at all times when such bus is in operation, exhibit a certificate in the form adopted by the Board, showing that the bus is insured in conformity with the applicable statutes. Such certificate shall disclose the name of the company in which the bus is insured, the number of the insurance policy, or in the case of a self-insurer, a certificate signed by an officer or agent that it has qualified as a self-insurer, the manufacture, year and rated seating capacity of the bus, together with the motor and chassis numbers, and it shall state the date to which the insurance premium has been actually paid. Said certificate shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the bus on the right-hand side of the driver above the windshield.

Section recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:4-2.2.

SUBCHAPTER 10. DESIGNATED FEES FOR AUTOBUS INSPECTIONS

16:53-10.1 Smoke emission inspection

The fee charged for a smoke emission test performed by Department of Transportation personnel in conjunction with self inspection certification will be \$15.00 per vehicle.

16:53-10.2 Brake test inspection

The fee charged for a brake test performed by Department of Transportation personnel in conjunction with self inspection certification will be \$15.00 per vehicle.