

# Out of Service

School Bus (Utah)

1999

The following are excerpts from the "SCHOOL BUS OUT OF SERVICE CRITERIA" that I recently received from the Utah Highway Patrol Inspection unit. I purposely left off a few paragraphs ( I. and II., VI., VII. and VIII.) They are to do with technical stuff that our mechanics deal with and we seldom pay attention to. Starting with paragraph III. I have listed the ones us drivers may be more concerned with. I must first make mention of a few things. The Highway Patrol is planning to review and possibly update these criteria and school districts have the option to impose more stringent requirements as they may apply to their unique circumstances.

## III. SUSPENSION

### A. Axle Part / Members

1. Any U-bolt or other spring to axle clamp bolt(s) cracked, broken, loose, or missing.
2. Any spring hanger(s), or other axle positioning parts cracked, broken, loose, or missing that results in a shifting of an axle from its normal position.

### B. Spring Assembly

1. Any spring hanger, assembly part or leaf, broken or missing.

## IV. TIRES

### A. Tire Tread

1. Any steering axle tire so worn that less than  $\frac{2}{32}$  inch tread when measured in any two adjacent major tread grooves at any location on the tire.
2. Any drive axle tire so worn that less than  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch tread when measured in any three adjacent major tread grooves at 3 separate locations on the tire.

### B. Tire Sidewall

1. any sidewall that is cut, or damaged to the extent that the ply cord is exposed.
2. Any dual tire sidewalls are touching.

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3. Any observable bump, bulge, or knot related to sidewall or tread separation. EXCEPTION : A bulge due to a section repair is allowed not to exceed 3/8 inch in height. This bulge may sometimes be identified by a blue triangular label in the immediate vicinity.

**C. Tire Inflation**

1. Tire is flat or has noticeable leak.

**D. Tire Type**

1. Not of proper type (load range, size, mismatched, etc. )
2. Labeled “ not For Highway Use” or carrying other markings which exclude us on the highways.

**V. WHEELS/RIM/HUB**

**A. Disc wheels**

1. Any nuts, bolts, studs or lugs are missing, damaged or loose.
2. Any wheel/rim is cracked, improperly seated, damaged, or welded.  
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**B. Spoke (Dayton) Wheels**

1. Any spoke wheel in use on a school bus registered in Utah does not meet standards.

**C. Hub**

1. Any axle bearing cap is missing or broken allowing an open view into the hub assembly.
2. Smoking from the wheel hub assembly due to bearing failure.

**IX. LIGHTS**

**A. When lights are required**

1. Headlamps – bus does not have at least one headlamp operative on low beam.

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2. Lamps on rear – not having at least one steady burning tail lamp on the rear of the bus visible from 500 feet.

**B. At any time – Day or Night**

1. Does not have at least one operative stop lamp on the rear of the bus visible at 500 feet.
2. Does not have operative turn signal on each side of the rear of the bus.

**C. Loading lights**

1. Loading lights that are inoperative will **not** be considered out of service, but must be repaired immediately before any students are picked up.

**X. AISLE**

**A. Clearance**

1. Aisle does not have the required clearance.

**B. Obstruction**

1. There are objects blocking the aisles or exits.

**XI. WINDSHIELD WIPERS**

- A. Any inoperative wiper or missing or damaged parts that render it ineffective on the driver's side. (Applicable only in inclement weather requiring use of windshield wipers).

**XII. BODY EXTERIOR**

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

**XIII. BODY INTERIOR**

**A. Panels**

1. Any panel (ceiling, side, wheel well, etc.) protruding, having sharp edges, or not secured, that may cause injuries.

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**B. Floors**

1. Floor pan or inner panels having excessive perforated areas or openings sufficient to cause a hazard to an occupant.

**C. Step Well**

1. Any part of the step well or support structure is damaged.
2. Any condition that would present a tripping hazard.

**D. Seats/Barriers**

1. Any seat/barrier that is not secured properly.
2. Any seat /barrier material so defective that it compromises the integrity of the occupant protection and compartmentalization.
3. seat spacing fails to comply with FMVSS No. 222

**E. Seat ( Driver)**

1. Fails to adjust or hold a proper adjustment.
2. Any part of the driver's safety restraint assembly is missing, not properly installed or so defective as to prevent proper securement.

**F. Doors (Service)**

1. The service door does not open or close properly.
2. The door control handle does not lock in the closed position.
3. The door is equipped with a padlock or similar non – OEM locking device. (Excludes vehicles equipped with an interlock system).

**G. Wheel Chair Equipped Buses**

1. Wheelchair lift does not function as designed or is inoperable.
2. Any hydraulic line leaking during lift operation.
3. Wheelchair securement missing or improperly installed loose or damaged.

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4. Any required wheelchair occupant restraint system not in compliance with FMVSS No. 222

**H. Emergency Exits** (Doors, windows and roof hatch)

1. Any emergency exit that does not open freely or completely, as designed.
2. Any emergency exit warning device that is defective or fails to function.
3. Any emergency exit that is equipped with a padlock or similar non – OEM locking device. (Excludes vehicles equipped with an interlock system)

**I. Windows**

1. Any glass or glazing that is broken through or missing.
2. Not approved type.
3. Every school vehicle windshield shall be free of discoloration or other damage in that portion thereof extending upward from the height of the topmost portion of the steering wheel, but not including a one inch border at the top and a one-inch border at each side of the windshield or each panel thereof, except that discoloration and damage as follows are allowed:
  - a. Coloring or tinting applied during manufacture, for reduction of glare;
  - b. Any crack not over –inch long, if not intersected by any other crack;
  - c. Any damage area which can be covered by a disc  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter, if not closer than 3 inched to any other such damaged area.
4. Driver side area window(s) have chips, clouding or cracks that obscure the driver's vision.

**XIV. HANDRAIL**

- A. Fails the nut/drawstring test or has not complied with recall (See table #3) (Table and Diagram removed)

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## The End

Paragraphs left off by me:

- I. BRAKE SYSTEMS
- II. STEERING MECHANISM
- VI. FRAME
- VII. EXHAUST SYSTEM
- VIII. FUEL SYSTEM

My gratitude goes to Inspector Michael Phelps for his support. If you have any questions, please direct them first to our/your district. Inspector Phelps can be contacted at (801) 965-4889, opt#1.

[www.utahschoolbus.org](http://www.utahschoolbus.org)

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