



- schools must inspect vehicle(s)' (i) roadworthiness, (ii) license(s) for validity, and (iii) must be introduced to the driver(s) and be shown the driver(s)' license(s) and other relevant documents;
- the transport service provider(s) must provide alternative support contacts en route, in case of emergency as well as stop points prior to the school trips, excursions or tours being undertaken;
- the school(s), trip or excursion or tour coordinator(s), and the transport service provider(s) must ensure that there is effective and efficient communication system set for the school trip(s) or excursion(s) or tour(s);
- trip, excursion or tour coordinators must intervene immediately if there is doubt about the roadworthiness of the vehicle(s), or the competence of the driver(s) or the validity of vehicle(s)' and driver(s) license(s) and other relevant documents; and
- transport service providers and their driver(s) must report tour coordinators, educators and the learner leadership should they be seen to abdicate their responsibilities for the safety of the learners and other passengers and/or other road users during the school trip(s) or excursion(s) or tour(s).

(2)(a) Yes, there is legislation that prevents educators and members of school governing bodies from carrying out breathalyser tests on bus drivers before learners board the buses. Section 3(a) of the National Road Traffic Act, Act No. 93 of 1996 requires authorized officers to carry out such tests. Authorised officers are required to undergo training and to be qualified. Moreover, Section 3(k) makes it an offence to impersonate an authorised officer.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of the National Road Traffic Act, schools that hire transport from transport service providers may request proof of the most recent service the hired transport had undergone. If the schools are not satisfied with the condition of the vehicles prior to the trip(s) or excursion(s) or tour(s), or the length of the period since the vehicles were last serviced, schools may reject them and demand that they be tested for roadworthiness prior to the trip(s) or excursion(s) or tour(s) being undertaken. If the service providers do not comply, schools can hire vehicles from other providers.

(3) The Department has not conducted any research on the number of accidents involving vehicles hired by schools in the last five years. The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) collects data on all road accidents. However, in its collection of road accident information, the RTMC does not make a distinction between public passenger and school buses.

(4) There is ongoing collaboration between the Ministries of Transport and Education regarding the matter of safer transport, and the Ministry of Transport has put various measures in place in this regard. Details pertaining to (a) roadworthiness of transport, (b) fitness of drivers to transport passengers and (c) safe driving can be obtained from the Department of Transport.

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