Chapter 392-143 WAC
TRANSPORTATION—SPECIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL BUSES

WAC 392-143-001 Authority and purpose. The authority for this chapter is RCW 46.61.380 which authorizes the superintendent of public instruction to adopt and enforce regulations to govern the design, marking, and mode of operation of all school buses transporting public school students. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the specifications governing the design and marking of all school buses owned and operated by any school district and all school buses which are privately owned and operated under contract with any school district for the transportation of students. The provisions of this chapter are incorporated by express reference into all school district contracts for the transportation of public school students in privately owned and operated school buses.

WAC 392-143-005 Purpose. [Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 83-21-025 (Order 83-13), § 392-143-005, filed 10/10/83; WSR 79-12-005 (Order 9-79), § 392-143-005, filed 11/7/79; Order 7-75, § 392-143-005, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-21-105.] Repealed by WSR 12-01-075, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380.

WAC 392-143-025 Additional local specifications. [Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 83-21-025 (Order 83-13), § 392-143-025, filed 10/10/83; Order 7-75, § 392-143-025, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-21-105.] Repealed by WSR 12-01-075, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380.

WAC 392-143-030 School buses—School bus operating permit and license. [Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-030, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 04-08-117, § 392-143-030, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04; WSR 91-23-069 (Order 22), § 392-143-030, filed 11/19/91, effective 11/19/91; WSR 84-20-081 (Order 84-39), § 392-143-030, filed 10/2/84; WSR 84-03-001 (Order 84-1), § 392-143-030, filed 1/5/84; WSR 83-21-025 (Order 83-13), § 392-143-030, filed 10/10/83; Order 7-75, § 392-143-030, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-21-115.] Repealed by WSR 12-15-079, filed 7/18/12, effective 8/18/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380.


WAC 392-143-061 School bus hazard warning lamps and stop lamps. [Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 90-22-043 (Order 38), § 392-143-061, filed 11/2/90, effective 12/3/90.] Repealed by WSR 04-08-117, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380.


WAC 392-143-075 Amendment and waiver process. [Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 79-12-005 (Order 9-79), § 392-143-075, filed 11/9/79; Order 8-77, § 392-143-075, filed 10/11/77, effective 11/11/77.] Repealed by WSR 83-21-005 (Order 83-13), filed 10/10/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380.
usaha inspectors by the Washington state patrol, and buses
which have undergone rehabilitation or modification.

(8) "Major repairs" means repairs to or rebuilding of the
frame, steering, suspension, or braking systems. Major
repairs to braking systems does not include routine mainte-
nance such as replacing brake shoes, pads or drums.

(9) "Multifunction school activity bus (MFSAB)" means
a vehicle defined by the National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration, 49 C.F.R. 571, as a multifunction school
activity bus used for purposes consistent with that definition.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-031, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-010, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 04-08-117, § 392-143-010, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04; WSR 01-17-006, § 392-143-010, filed 8/1/01, effective 9/1/01; WSR 96-16-012 (Order 96-11), § 392-143-010, filed 7/25/96, effective 8/25/96; WSR 84-20-081 (Order 84-39), § 392-143-010, filed 10/2/84; WSR 83-21-025 (Order 83-13), § 392-143-010, filed 10/10/83; WSR 79-12-
005 (Order 9-79), § 392-143-010, filed 11/9/79; Order 8-77, § 392-143-010, filed 10/11/77, effective 11/11/77; Order 19-76, § 392-143-010, filed 12/31/76; Order 7-75, § 392-143-010, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-
21-110.]

WAC 392-143-015 School bus specifications manual.
The Washington state school bus specifications manual is
hereby incorporated into this chapter by reference. Prior to
any revision of the school bus specification manual, the
superintendent of public instruction must serve notice to
interested parties and shall hold at least one public meeting.
[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-015, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-015, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 04-08-117, § 392-143-010, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04; WSR 84-20-081 (Order 84-39), § 392-143-010, filed 10/2/84; WSR 83-21-025 (Order 83-13), § 392-143-010, filed 10/10/83; WSR 79-12-
005 (Order 9-79), § 392-143-010, filed 11/9/79; Order 8-77, § 392-143-010, filed 10/11/77, effective 11/11/77; Order 19-76, § 392-143-010, filed 12/31/76; Order 7-75, § 392-143-010, filed 12/22/75.]

WAC 392-143-031 School bus inspection—School
bus operation permit. All school buses must be inspected
and approved by a Washington state patrol inspection officer
prior to initial issue or reissue of a school bus operation
permit.
[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-031, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 04-08-117, § 392-143-031, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04; WSR 91-23-069 (Order 22), § 392-143-031, filed 11/19/91, effective 11/19/91.]

WAC 392-143-032 School bus operation permit. The
superintendent of public instruction must issue school bus
operation permits as follows:

(1) School buses owned or operated by a school district
or owned by a private contractor under contract to a school
district must be issued a school bus operation permit on
receipt of the following electronic files or documents for each
new school bus or used school bus not previously issued a
school bus operation permit in Washington state:
(a) SPI Form 1020A, School Bus Acquisition Report;
(b) SPI Form 1029, Initial School Bus Inspection; and
(c) Supporting documentation as required on SPI Form
1020A.

(2) A school bus operation permit must be reissu ed on
receipt of the following electronic files or documents for
school buses previously licensed in Washington state:
(a) SPI Form 1020A, School Bus Acquisition Report,
from the school district acquiring the school bus; and
(b) SPI Form 1029, Initial School Bus Inspection, if the
most recent school bus inspection was more than twelve
months prior to the date of acquisition.

(3) A copy of the operation permit must be retained by
the school district and a copy shall be placed in the permit
holder in the school bus.
[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-031, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; WSR 12-15-079, § 392-143-032, filed 7/18/12, effective 8/18/12; WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-032, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 04-08-117, § 392-143-032, filed 4/6/04, effective 5/7/04; WSR 91-23-069 (Order 22), § 392-143-032, filed 11/19/91, effective 11/19/91.]

WAC 392-143-035 Routine inspection of school
buses. All school buses shall be inspected annually by the
Washington state patrol. Inspection dates must be determined
by the chief of the state patrol. School districts must be noti-
fied by the chief of the state patrol prior to each annual
inspection of the time and place of inspection. School buses
not presented for inspection at the time and place scheduled
by the chief of the state patrol may obtain the appropriate
inspection on or before August 31st of the current year. If the
vehicle is not inspected on or before August 31st, the bus
must not be operated as a school bus unless the requirement
is temporarily waived in writing by the chief of the state
patrol or until the school bus has passed a required inspec-
tion. A second inspection of at least twenty-five percent of
each school district's fleet must be conducted annually by the
Washington state patrol. This second inspection shall be
unannounced and the inspection team must select which
buses in the fleet it will inspect. These unannounced inspec-
tions must be scheduled so that they do not disrupt the regular
transportation program.
[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-035, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-035, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 84-20-081 (Order 84-39), § 392-143-035, filed 10/2/84; WSR 83-21-025 (Order 83-13), § 392-143-015, filed 10/10/83; Order 7-75, § 392-143-015, filed 12/22/75.]

WAC 392-143-040 Other required inspections of
school buses. All school buses which have been rebuilt, have
received a major modification, have received a major repair,
or have received an interior renovation or refurbishment must
be inspected prior to transporting students in accordance with
the following criteria:

(1) A rebuilt school bus: For the purpose of this section,
a rebuilt school bus must fully comply with all current Wash-
ington specifications at the time the school bus is rebuilt.

(2) A school bus receiving a major modification (e.g.,
hydraulic lift and/or ramp for wheelchairs) must meet all cur-
cent state of Washington specifications at the time the major
modification is made.

(3) A school bus receiving a major repair must meet or
exceed Washington specifications in effect at the time of the
original manufacturing date of the bus and shall be inspected
in the same manner as a new school bus with emphasis on
mechanical safety items.

(4) A school bus receiving an interior renovation or
refurbishment must be inspected in the same manner as a new
school bus with respect to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
Standard 222.

[Ch. 392-143 WAC p. 2]
WAC 392-143-050 Resold school buses. A school district which sells a school bus to anyone other than another school district must be responsible for removing the school district's name and number and all lettering and markings identifying the vehicle as a school bus prior to its delivery to the purchaser. However, if the district sells the school bus to a private party who certifies in writing that the school bus will be used as a private carrier bus, the district need not remove the four or eight light warning system and stop signal arm.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-070, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-040, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 84-03-001 (Order 84-1), § 392-143-070, filed 10/11/77, effective 11/11/77; Order 7-75, § 392-143-040, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-21-150.]

WAC 392-143-055 Responsibility for compliance with school bus specification rules. The responsibility for compliance with this chapter lies with the board of directors of each school district. Failure to comply with this chapter constitutes cause for the withholding of state transportation funds for such time and to such extent as is necessary to ensure compliance.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-055, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; Order 7-75, § 392-143-055, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-21-155.]

WAC 392-143-060 School bus specifications continued compliance. School districts must maintain all school buses in such condition that they shall continue to meet or exceed Washington state specifications in effect when the bus was manufactured, except as such standards or specifications are subsequently repealed or modified.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.380. WSR 18-09-092, § 392-143-060, filed 4/17/18, effective 5/18/18; WSR 12-01-075, § 392-143-060, filed 12/19/11, effective 1/19/12; WSR 84-03-001 (Order 84-1), § 392-143-060, filed 10/10/83; Order 8-77, § 392-143-060, filed 10/11/77, effective 11/11/77.]

WAC 392-143-070 Other vehicles used to transport students. All vehicles with a seating capacity including the driver of ten persons or less are not required to meet school bus specifications. Such vehicles regularly used to transport students to and from school or in connection with school activities must carry the approved school bus first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, and highway warning kit. These vehicles also must pass a safety inspection routinely conducted at the intervals outlined in WAC 392-143-035.

School districts may use an MFSAB with a seating capacity of less than sixteen passengers, including the driver. An MFSAB may be used to transport students and is required to have Washington state patrol inspections, initial and annual, for the appropriate class vehicle. An MFSAB must not be used in home-to-school transportation, or where any stop configuration would require the use of alternately flash-