



Education, Citizenship and Youth

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**TO: SCHOOL DIVISION SECRETARY-TREASURERS
SCHOOL DIVISION TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISORS**

Subject: New Bus Inspection (NBI) Process

New Bus Inspections (NBI) will now be performed on all new school buses and new Multi-Function Activity Buses (MFAB) purchased by Manitoba school divisions either through the central tender process or independently. The NBI is intended to ensure that new school buses and MFAB's entering the public school system comply with all Federal requirements and provincial regulations.

The need for this inspection process became evident to the Pupil Transportation Unit (PTU) while performing school division transportation system reviews. One facet of the review process involves inspection of a portion of a division's school bus fleet. In some cases, these inspections revealed non-compliant school buses which did not meet CSA D250 Standards and/or Manitoba regulations and specifications. Correction of these non-compliant issues after-the-fact cannot only be expensive and inconvenient, but can delay the use of the vehicle for an extended period of time. Most importantly, however, is consideration of the safety ramifications of non-compliant school buses transporting students.

PTU has discussed the inspection process with the three Manitoba dealers, and each has agreed to advise PTU of new school bus and/or MFAB vehicles purchased by school divisions. With these agreements in place, PTU concluded that it would begin inspection of all new school bus and MFAB vehicles to ensure their compliance to Transport Canada requirements; CSA D250 or D270; Manitoba Regulation 465/88R; and, Manitoba specifications. It should be noted that PTU inspectors will ensure that any optional equipment ordered is in place.

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PTU will make every effort to inspect vehicles prior to delivery, at the dealership. The inspection process will ensure that school divisions receive buses that are road-ready and properly equipped.

By working together on this new inspection process, I feel we will add an additional positive step in getting Manitoba's children safely to school.

Yours truly,

[signature]

Attachment

OVERVIEW - NEW BUS INSPECTION PROCESS (NBI)

- PTU will inspect all new school bus and MFAB units at the dealership prior to delivery regardless of purchase method to ensure compliance to Transport Canada requirements; CSA D250 or D270; Manitoba Regulation 465/88R; and, Manitoba specifications.
- Regardless of purchase method, PTU inspectors will ensure that units are equipped with optional equipment as ordered.
- Non-compliant items (as per D250/D270 and 465/88R) will be re-inspected by PTU inspectors once repair work has been performed.
- PTU will list minor (cosmetic) defects found and indicate if the item needs repair; mark as an advisement (dealer discretion); or, note as sub-standard. It will be left to the determination of the dealer and the school division as to how these minor (cosmetic) defects will be addressed.
- Copies of the completed acceptance inspection sheet will be provided to the dealer and the school division.
- PTU will affix a “New School Bus Inspection Tag” on the inside left front bulkhead of the bus once the inspection is complete and the bus meets all necessary criteria. Vehicle Standards and Inspections Field Supervisors will include identification of this Tag as a criteria to verify while performing their inspections.
- PTU will be available for discussion with dealers and manufacturers regarding discrepancies or other issues that arise.
- PTU will continue to conduct pilot review inspection for models purchased through the central tender process.