

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES
One Copley Place, Boston 02116
www.massrmv.com

ADVISORY

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Kimberly Hinden, Acting Registrar
DATE: April 19, 2002
SUBJECT: **Fourteen-Passenger Activity Vehicles**

The Registry of Motor Vehicles is aware of the availability of "fourteen-passenger activity vehicles" that are manufactured to conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards established for school buses. The purpose of this advisory is to articulate how the Registry of Motor Vehicles will regulate the registration and operation of these vehicles.

Entities wishing to purchase, lease and operate these fourteen-passenger activity vehicles **under the provisions of the exemption contained in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 7D**, may do so provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

- The operating entity is a private school, day care center, camp, school-age child care program or special needs program.
- Transportation provided to pupils in said vehicles is not on a fixed route, but is for purposes of transporting pupils to and from activities or events related to the school or program.
- The primary relationship of the driver to the passengers is that of teacher, coach, director or caregiver, and not as an operator being compensated for such service.
- The vehicles are equipped with safety belts for all passengers.

If all of the above conditions are satisfied, fourteen-passenger activity vehicles may be registered as private passenger motor vehicles, and do not have to have pupil, school bus or livery plates. Fourteen-passenger activity vehicles that are not registered with school bus or school pupil transport plates may not display certain equipment required of school buses and school pupil transport vehicles. Such vehicles shall not be painted National School Bus Glossy Yellow, bear the words "SCHOOL BUS" on the exterior, be equipped with alternating/flashing red or amber school bus lights, nor be equipped with an octagonal stop arm device which extends outward of the driver's left-hand position.

Fourteen-passenger vehicles used in fixed-route transportation of school children

Entities wishing to operate these fourteen-passenger activity vehicles in order to provide **fixed-route**

transportation or to utilize drivers primarily employed and compensated as operators, must register said vehicles as school buses. The operators of the vehicles in such instances must be properly licensed, i.e. at a minimum, possess a limited school bus operator's certificate. Such use also necessitates conformance with the equipment and operating requirements for school buses including, but not limited to, those contained in MGL Ch. 90, Sec. 7B, 7C, 7L and 8A.

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