

of FMVSS No. 111 (49 CFR 571.111) and provides the seated driver with a view to the rear along both sides of the bus and a view of the front bumper and the area in front of the bus;

(4) Be equipped with a lower step panel at the primary point of access to enable small children to step on and off the bus safely and unassisted;

(5) Be equipped with reverse beepers; and

(6) Have specialized equipment, such as wheel chair lifts or other assistance devices as necessary to guarantee equal access to disabled children.

(c) To the extent allowable within State requirements, vehicles owned, leased, or operated by Head Start must comply with the following additional recommendations for identification and equipment of a school bus contained in Guideline 17, as follows:

(1) Be identified with the words "School Bus" printed in letters not less than eight inches high, located between the warning signal lamps as high as possible without impairing visibility of the lettering from both front and rear, and have no other lettering on the front or rear of the vehicle except as required by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), 49 CFR part 571;

(2) Be painted National School Bus Glossy Yellow, in accordance with the colorimetric specification of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Federal Standard No. 595a, Color 13432, except that the hood should be either that color or lusterless black, matching NIST Federal Standard No. 595a, Color 37038;

(3) Have bumpers of glossy black, matching NIST Federal Standard No. 595a, Color 17038, unless, for increased visibility, they are covered with a reflective material;

(4) Be equipped with a stop signal arm as specified in FMVSS No. 131 (49 CFR 571.131) and a crossing control arm; and

(5) Be equipped with a system of signal lamps that conforms to the performance requirements of FMVSS No. 108 (49 CFR 571.108).

(d) In order to insure that the manufacturers of Head Start vehicles comply with the applicable FMVSS standards, Head Start agencies must:

(1) Assure that bid announcements contain the correct specifications for the vehicle(s) to be purchased, including a clear statement of the intended use of the vehicle; and

(2) Have a prescribed procedure for examining new vehicles at the time of delivery to assure that they are equipped in accordance with the bid specifications and that the

manufacturer's certification of compliance with the FMVSS is in place.

(e) Head Start vehicles in use which do not comply with the FMVSS and the minimum capacity requirement must be replaced or retired within the three year period authorized by this regulation. (In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 9839(g)(2)(C), with the permission of the Secretary, Head Start funds may be used for capital expenditures (including paying the cost of amortizing the principal and paying interest on loans) to purchase vehicles used for programs conducted at Head Start facilities.)

(f) All passengers on a Head Start vehicle must be seated while the vehicle is in motion.

(g) Auxiliary seating, such as temporary or folding jump seats, is prohibited.

(h) Drivers of Head Start vehicles, Bus Monitors, and other passengers must wear seat belts while the vehicle is in motion.

(i) While the vehicle is in motion, all children must be seated in a child restraint system appropriate to the height and weight of the child as set forth in the performance requirements in FMVSS (49 CFR 571.213).

(j) Baggage and other items transported in the passenger compartment must be properly stored and secured so that the aisles remain clear and the doors and emergency exits remain unobstructed at all times.

(k) Head Start vehicles must be maintained in safe operating condition at all times. Procedures must be established for:

(1) A thorough safety inspection of each vehicle on at least an annual basis through an inspection program licensed or operated by the State;

(2) Performing systematic preventive maintenance on Head Start vehicles; and

(3) Daily pre-trip inspection of the vehicle by the Head Start driver.

#### **§ 1310.12 Driver qualifications.**

(a) In order to qualify to drive a Head Start vehicle, a person must, at a minimum:

(1) Be at least 21 years old;

(2) Have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) as granted by a State pursuant to FHWA's Commercial Driver's License Standards (49 CFR part 383); and

(3) Meet all the physical, mental, moral and other requirements established by Federal and State regulations, including requirements regarding drug and/or alcohol misuse or abuse.

(b) Each Head Start program must establish its own applicant screening

procedure. Applicants must be advised of the specific background checks required at the time application is made, and Head Start agencies must have established criteria for the rejection of unacceptable applicants.

(c) At a minimum, applicant screening procedures must include:

(1) An application which provides employment history, educational background and personal references;

(2) An interview and screening procedure which, among other things, is designed to determine that the person is of good moral character, does not use intoxicating beverages to excess and does not use narcotic and other illegal drugs;

(3) A check of the applicant's driving record through the State Department of Motor Vehicles, including a check of the applicant's record through the National Driver Register, if available in the State; and

(4) A physical examination, performed by a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy, to determine that the person possesses the physical ability to operate a school bus based on the requirements in their respective State.

#### **§ 1310.13 Driver training.**

(a) Driver training plans must include both pre-service and annual in-service training programs.

(b) Pre-service training.

(1) All Head Start drivers must receive a minimum of 40 hours of skills training prior to transporting children. Skills training should encompass a combination of classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel instruction sufficient to enable the driver to:

(i) Operate the vehicle in a safe and efficient manner;

(ii) Safely run a fixed route, including loading and unloading children, stopping at railroad crossings and other specialized driving requirements;

(iii) Administer basic first aid in case of injury;

(iv) Handle emergency situations, including school bus evacuation procedures;

(v) Operate any special equipment, such as wheel chair lifts, assistance devices or special occupant restraints;

(vi) Conduct routine maintenance and safety checks of the vehicle; and

(vii) Maintain accurate records.

(2) In addition to the skills training, pre-service training should include:

(i) An orientation to the goals and objectives of Head Start with an emphasis on the educational and developmental needs of children;

(ii) The role of the Head Start Driver in providing a supportive social and