



WSP/OSPI Inspection Interpretations (May 2026)

- **Inspection Timeframes:**

Summer: 3/15—8/31, Winter: 11/1—3/14.

- **Lighting:**

It has been brought to our attention that some buses are arriving with lighting on both sides of the bus (see below) that does not meet our specifications. Some buses were inadvertently issued initial inspection forms with these lights on them before we became aware of them. These lights will need to be removed.



- **Pole Vaults:**

- a. It is recommended that pole vaults be transported in "modified" exterior storage compartments whenever possible.
- b. Transporting pole vaults that are *securely* fastened (no bungee cords) underneath passenger seats next to the interior wall or to the outer seat legs is acceptable if no portion of the poles extend in front of an emergency exit or into the bus aisle.



- **EMERGENCY EXITS (Page 24, 2025 Spec. Manual)**

- Emergency roof exit/ventilator(s). All buses shall be equipped with a minimum number of emergency roof exit/ventilator(s) according to maximum design capacity as follows:
 - Up to and including 45 passengers = 1 exit
 - 46 passengers and above = 2 exits
 - If the bus is equipped with one-emergency roof exit/ventilator, it shall be located at the approximate center of the usable passenger seating area. If the bus is equipped with two emergency roof exit/ventilators, one shall be in the approximate center of the forward one-half of the usable passenger seating area and one in the approximate center of the rear one-half of the usable passenger seating area.
 - If the bus is equipped with three emergency-roof exits/ventilators, they shall be as evenly separated as practicable within the passenger seating area.
 - In all of the above situations, if locating a roof hatch in the approximate center of a seating area will intersect a roof bow, then placement shall provide maximum separation of the emergency exits.
 - There shall be an alarm on each emergency roof exit/ventilator that will give a continuous warning sound audible at the driver's seating position when any emergency roof exit/ventilator latching mechanism is moved to the emergency exit position.
 - Each emergency roof exit/ventilator shall be capable of being opened to its emergency exit position from inside and outside the bus.
 - Each emergency roof exit/ventilator shall meet all applicable requirements of FMVSS No. 217.

- **LAMPS AND SIGNALS (Page 35, 2025 Spec. Manual)**

- All lamps on the exterior of the vehicle shall be approved by OSPI and the Washington State Patrol, Equipment and Standards Division, and shall conform to design, construction and mounting requirements as specified in SAE J887a (*See Appendix, Page 70, Item 9.*) and/or FMVSS No. 108 as appropriate, or any subsequent standards thereof.
- Interior lamps shall be provided which adequately illuminate the aisle and stepwell. Interior lights shall be able to illuminate with the ignition key in any position. Stepwell light shall be illuminated by a service door operated switch so as to illuminate only when the ignition switch or headlights and clearance lights are on, and the service door is opened.



- Alternately flashing school bus warning lights (RCW 46.37.290) shall comply with all standards of Chapter 204-21 WAC. (See *Appendix*, Page 77, Item 17.) (Also see Washington State Patrol Inspection Procedures for Eight-light systems; *Appendix*, Page 81, Item 22.) MFSABs are exempt from this requirement. Alternately flashing eight-lights (Red and/or Amber) may flash or strobe but shall be the same type on the facing side of the school bus. A strobing eight-light (Red and/or Amber) shall not be paired with a flashing eight-light (Red and/or Amber) on the same facing side (front or rear) of the school bus.
- **Noise Suppression Switch (Page 38, 2025 Spec. Manual)**

Each bus shall be equipped with an on/off (not momentary) switch mounted in the driver's compartment to turn off all interior noise-producing accessories simultaneously, including, but not limited to, heater/air conditioning blowers, defroster fans, auxiliary fans, and radios, if so equipped. This switch shall not disable the emergency exit buzzers. This does not apply to two-way communication systems. In addition, a red light may be activated by the switch to alert students.



(NEW SECTION)

SECTION IV: MULTIPURPOSE PASSENGER VEHICLES (MPV)/VANS

General Requirements

Multipurpose Passenger Vehicles/Vans shall meet the specific requirements listed below:

- The vehicle shall meet all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS).
- The GVWR shall be no less than 6,500lbs and not exceed 10,000lbs.
- The exterior of the vehicle shall be painted white or National School Bus Yellow (NSBY).
- All modifications/upfitting must be performed by OEM approved facilities prior to delivery to the district. Aftermarket upfitting/modifications are not authorized.
- **Passenger Capacity.** Manufacturer's rated passenger capacity shall be no more than 9+1.

- **Service Door**
 - The MPV shall be equipped with a service door mounted on the right side of the vehicle.
 - The service door shall meet all specification requirements described in Section I of this manual.

- **Lift, Power**

Power lifts installed on MPVs shall be rear mounted and stored within or under the vehicle.

 - Power lifts shall meet all specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.
 - Power lift controls shall meet all specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.
 - Lift platforms shall meet all specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.
 - Handrail shall meet all specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.
 - Padding shall meet all specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.
 - Light installed in the interior of the lift stations shall meet all specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.



- Ramps may be on the right side, or rear mounted on the vehicle.
 - Right side mounted ramps shall meet the requirement for an installed service door.
 - Ramps shall meet the specification requirements described in Section II of this manual.
- **Identification.** MPVs and Vans shall be identified as described in #2 and #3 under this heading in Section I of this manual.
- **Emergency Equipment.** MPVs and Vans shall be equipped with emergency equipment described under this heading in Section 1 of this manual.
- **Interior.** MPVs and Vans shall be equipped with two holders in which to display the operating permit and certificate of registration. Holders shall be 4 by 5-inches minimum, with a transparent covering and located in the driver's compartment for easy access.
- **Mobil Data Terminal (Optional).** Mobile data terminals may be installed on MPVs. Installation shall meet the specification requirements described in Section I of this manual.
- **Route Identifier (Optional).** Route identifier may be installed on MPVs/Vans. Installation shall meet the specification requirements described in Section I of this manual.

