



Department of Education
Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE No. T-09-06

School Business Services
School Transportation Management Section

Contact:
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2008 Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual

DATE: February 20, 2009

TO: School District Transportation Directors
School District Transportation Service Managers
School District Inspector Trainers
School District Inspector Test Administrators
Charter Schools

FROM: Charlie Hood, Director
School Transportation Management

SUBJECT: 2008 Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual

Rule 6A-3.0171, Florida Administrative Code, was revised, effective November 26, 2008, to incorporate changes recommended by the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation and its School Bus Inspection Committee. These rule changes are reflected in the attached 2008 Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual.

Please ensure that this Technical Assistance Note (TAN) and its attachments are provided to each inspector, inspector-trainer and test administrator in your district, and any charter school or contractor that provides public school transportation for your district. School district transportation maintenance departments and other entities that transport public school students must now begin using the 2008 manual to conduct the inspection program.

There are a number of changes in the attached 2008 Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual that reflect changes in school bus specifications, inspection, and inspector certification procedures since the manual was last revised in 2003. Please review the manual carefully to identify these changes.

There is one change of particular importance that is being implemented administratively and is not reflected in the 2008 manual. Effective immediately, the certification expiration date will be changed from December 31 to June 30. Six months will be added to current certifications. For example: inspectors that were due to re-certify by December 31, 2009, will now have until June 30, 2010, to re-certify. Inspectors that were due to re-certify by December 31, 2010, will now have until June 30, 2011, to re-certify, and so on.

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Beginning **July 13, 2009**, the certification and re-certification online tests will reflect the changes found in the 2008 Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual; until July 13, 2009, these tests will continue to be based on the 2003 manual. Thus, first-time candidates taking the 100 question online test prior to July 13, 2009, should study the 2003 manual and re-certification candidates taking the 30 question online test prior to July 13, 2009, should use the study guide provided in TAN No. T-05-05 (attached).

First time candidates taking the 100 question online test on July 13, 2009, or later should study the 2008 manual. Re-certification candidates taking the 30 question online test on July 13, 2009, or later should use the 2008 Re-certification Study Guide (attached).

If you have any questions, please call Bud Fletcher or me at (850) 245-9795, or e-mail Bud at Bud.Fletcher@fldoe.org.

CFH/bf

Attachments: 2008 Florida School Bus Safety Inspection Manual
TAN No. T-05-05
2008 School Bus Inspector Re-certification Study Guide