

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MOTORCOACH OPERATORS

Below is a “FACT SHEET” of the minimum requirements to be a legal motorcoach operator in the State of Florida engaged in interstate or foreign commerce.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Minimum Financial Responsibility (Insurance) \$5 million for interstate carriers
2. Interstate Operating Authority
3. Single State Permit (SSRP)
4. International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) registration
5. Local Licenses and Permits
 - a. Occupational license
 - b. Vehicle registration
 - c. Airport/Seaports

OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS

1. Place of business
2. Place to park buses
3. EPA approved lavatory dump/recovery facility
4. Maintenance facility and/or maintenance contractor

EMPLOYEE REQUIREMENTS

1. Drivers
 - a. Commercial Drivers License (CDL), class “B” or “C” (depending on weight of vehicle), with a “P” (passenger) endorsement, and air brakes if vehicle is so equipped. Note: All class B vehicles require air brakes.
 - b. D.O.T. physical exam
 - c. Pre-employment drug screen with a negative result
 - d. Driver qualification file per 391.51(a), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.
2. Mechanics or licensed maintenance contractor
 - a. Brake inspector certifications
 - b. Air conditioning certified
 - c. Annual inspection certifications

Now that you know the “Minimum” Requirements, the following are the requirements to become a “RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE MOTORCOACH COMMUNITY.”

1. Develop & implement employee policies and procedures
2. Carry excess insurance coverage to better protect the traveling public. I.e.: \$10 million instead of \$5 million.
3. Have emergency phone numbers and contacts in place 24 hours for customers and other coach companies who need assistance.
4. Become active members of industry associations such as, The Florida Motorcoach Association (FMA), The American Bus Association (ABA), United Motorcoach Association (UMA), etc.
5. Continual safety, defensive driving, and customer care training for drivers.
6. A “SATISFACTORY” compliance review by the U.S.D.O.T., or a #1 safety rating from the Department of Defense.