

**MODES OF SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE
MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY
BUSES**

OCTOBER 2017

BRIEF HISTORY

- 1987-1995: No larger vans were allowed. K-12 required to use yellow school buses or first division vehicles.
- 1995: PA 89-132 allowed 9-15 passenger vans to be used for extracurricular activities (Coach's Bill).
- 2003: NHTSA created the MFSAB vehicle classification.
- 2010: PA 96-410 banned non-conforming buses (15 passenger vans) and replaced them with MFSAB (9-15 extracurricular only).
- 2011: PA 97-378 amended definition of MFSAB to include 11 or more passengers.
- 2012: PA 97-896 allowed curriculum related trips (graded 9-12 only) with school bus driver permit.
- 2017: PA 99-888 allowed K-12 curriculum related trips – specific institutions only with IEP and SB permit.

**MULTIFUNCTION SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUS
TYPE II
GVWR 10,000 LBS. OR LESS**



**TYPE I MFSAB
GVWR 10,000 LBS. OR MORE**



DEFINITIONS

ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE AND CFR

Sec. 1-148.3a-5. Multifunction school activity bus (MFSAB). An MFSAB means a school bus manufactured for the purpose of transporting 11 or more persons, including the driver, whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops. A MFSAB is prohibited from meeting the special requirements for school buses in Sections 12-801, 12-803, and 12-805 and subsection (a) of Section 12-802 of this Code.
(Source: P.A. 96-410, eff. 7-1-10; 97-378, eff. 8-15-11.)

49 CFR 571.3 (Added 68 FR 44892, July 31, 2003) Multifunction school activity bus means a school bus whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops.

Sec. 1-217. Vehicle.

First Division: Those motor vehicles which are designed for the carrying of not more than 10 persons.

Second Division: Those vehicles which are designed for carrying more than 10 persons, those designed or used for living quarters and those vehicles which are designed for pulling or carrying property, freight or cargo, those motor vehicles of the First Division remodelled for use and used as motor vehicles of the Second Division, and those motor vehicles of the First Division used and registered as school buses.

(Source: P.A. 92-812, eff. 8-21-02.)

ILLINOIS VEHICLE INSPECTION LAW

Chapter 13 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/13) requires inspection of the following vehicles that may be owned or operated by a school (K-12).

- School Buses
- Buses (includes MFSABs)
- First Division Vehicles when School Bus Driver Permit is Required
- Driver Education Training Vehicles (over 5 model years of age or odometer of over 75,000 miles)
- 2nd division vehicles registered for more than 8,000 lbs (or GVWR more than 8,000 lbs if no weight plate)

INSPECTION – HOW OFTEN AND WHERE?

- School Buses and First Division Vehicles that require School Bus Driver Permit are inspected every 6 months or 10,000 miles whichever occurs first.
- Buses (includes MFSABs) are inspected every 6 months.
- Driver Education Training Vehicles are inspected annually.
- All inspections are performed at Illinois Official Testing Stations which can be located at <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/Assets/uploads/files/Transportation-System/Specialty-Lists/Safety/LanesForInternet.pdf>

INSPECTION COST

- School bus inspection fees are a set rate. The rates vary from \$26 to \$34.50 per bus statewide.
- MFSAB fees are per axle. Axles rates range from \$8 to \$11.50 per axle statewide. (MFSABs are 2 axles.)
- Testing Stations may petition for rates higher than what are set in the rule as shown above.

INSPECTION OVERVIEW

- All MFSABs receive a safety test on the overall condition of the bus, e.g., brakes, lights, and tires.
- Emergency exits are inspected for operation, alarms and locks, obstructions and identification.
- Buses (includes MFSAB) require a 10 B:C fire extinguisher and warning devices.
- MFSABs may display any color except school bus yellow (exterior and interior).
- MFSABs are required to display TO COMMENT ON MY DRIVING decal.
- **MFSABs are required to display:**
 - Weight and Maximum Passenger Capacity (Exterior)
 - Name of the Owner or Entity for which the MFSAB is Operated (Exterior)
 - An Identification Number (Exterior)
 - NO STANDEES (Interior)

MFSAB EXCEPTIONS

MFSABs are not subject to:

- Part 447 School Bus Brake Inspections
- Part 458 School Bus Driver Pretrip Inspection Requirements

Company policy may dictate compliance.

MFSAB MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2012

Additional Equipment Required:

Child Check System

Communication Device (2-way radio or cell)

Crossing Control Arm (considering removing)

Noise Suppression Switch

First Aid Kit (considering removing)

Strobe Lamp

Rub Rails

NONSCHEDULED BUS INSPECTIONS

- MFSABs are subject to IDOT's nonscheduled bus inspection administrative rule (per IVC).
- IDOT employees can inspect MFSABs owned or operated by schools (K-12) wherever they are stored or parked.
- IDOT employees can place MFSABs out of service, issue a three-day violation, or a 30-day warning.
- Part 456 – Nonscheduled Bus Inspections can be found at <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/092/09200456sections.html>.

IDOT AUTHORITY

IDOT regulates the inspection and maintenance of MFSABs owned or operated by or for public or private schools (K-12). IDOT regulates the construction of applicable MFSABs manufactured on or after July 1, 2012.

IDOT does not generally get involved in the use of the vehicle. IDOT tends to stay neutral regarding use issues.

MFSAB AT RR CROSSING

IVC

IVC Sec. 11-1202. Certain vehicles must stop at all railroad grade crossings.

(a) The driver of any of the following vehicles shall, before crossing a railroad track or tracks at grade, stop such vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail and, while so stopped, shall listen and look for the approach of a train or railroad track equipment and shall not proceed until such movement can be made with safety:

1. Any second division vehicle carrying passengers for hire;
2. Any bus that meets all of the special requirements for school buses in Sections 12-801, 12-803, and 12-805 of this Code. The driver of the bus, in addition to complying with all other applicable requirements of this subsection must also (i) turn off all noise producing accessories including heater blowers, defroster fans, auxiliary fans, and radios, and (ii) open the service door and driver's window, before crossing a railroad track or tracks
3. Any other vehicle which is required by Federal or State law to be placarded when carrying as a cargo or part of a cargo hazardous material as defined in the "Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act".

MFSAB AND RR CROSSINGS (CONT.)

IDOT Back to School Letter (September 2010)

Illinois law (at 625 ILCS 5/11-1202) requires school buses to stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail, and while so stopped, shall listen and look for the approach of a train or railroad track equipment and shall not proceed until such movement can be made with safety. School bus drivers are also required to turn off all noise-producing accessories, including heater blowers, defroster fans, auxiliary fans and radios and open the service door and driver's window before crossing a railroad track or tracks. Due to the fact that a multifunction school activity bus is defined as a school bus manufactured for the purpose of transporting 11 or more persons, including the driver..., the Department has interpreted Section 11-1202 to require drivers of multifunction school activity buses to also stop at railroad grade crossings and follow the same procedures required to be followed when driving a school bus.

QUESTIONS/COMPLAINTS?

Illinois Department of Transportation

Bureau of Investigations and Compliance

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