



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration

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Washington, D.C. 20590

## **MOTORCOACH FACTS**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is committed to protecting the traveling public and saving lives. In service to this commitment, FMCSA is implementing strong safety measures that make motorcoach travel safer for passengers and everyone on our roadways.

### **Stronger Safety Enforcement**

- The FMCSA has significantly stepped-up its safety enforcement of motorcoaches and other commercial passenger carriers. For example, under the current Administration, FMCSA's out-of-service orders to remove unsafe passenger carriers from the road have increased from 36 in 2008 to 54 in 2011.
- Roadside safety enforcement of passenger carriers has also steadily increased. During FMCSA's 2011 National Passenger Carrier Safety Strike Force in September, Federal, State and local police carried out over 8,300 safety inspections of motorcoaches, tour buses, school buses and other passenger carriers nationwide. The two-week inspection sweep removed 902 unsafe vehicles or drivers from our roadways. FMCSA will carry out its 2012 National Passenger Carrier Safety Strike Force later this year.
- Over the past six years, motorcoach inspections have more than doubled, from 12,991 in 2005 to 28,982 in 2011.
- In FY 2011 there were 28,982 motorcoach inspections, resulting in 914 motorcoach drivers and 1,642 motorcoach vehicles being placed out of service.
- On-site safety compliance reviews of motorcoach companies are up 131 percent, from 457 in 2005 to 1,055 in 2011.
- Since 2008, FMCSA's passenger carrier vetting program continues to reject approximately 23 percent of all motorcoach companies applying for operating authority.
- Since 2009, FMCSA has conducted 171 American with Disabilities Act (ADA) reviews on motorcoaches and issued two consent decrees that required the companies to upgrade their fleets.

### **Tougher Safety Standards**

- Under FMCSA's new, data-driven Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) enforcement program, motorcoach and other commercial passenger carriers with safety problems in even one of seven performance areas are immediately targeted for safety interventions—ranging from warning letters, on-site safety compliance reviews, federal fines and out-of-service orders.
- In May 2011, FMCSA established tougher national standards that require anyone applying for a commercial driver's license (CDL) to first obtain a commercial learner's permit.
- To end the dangerous practice of distracted driving, FMCSA banned texting and the use of hand-held cell phones by drivers of commercial vehicles, including motorcoach and other passenger carrier drivers.

Source: Based on safety enforcement data entered into FMCSA's Motor Carrier Management Information System and other FMCSA data systems as of April 27, 2012.

- FMCSA is taking action using a new rule, which took effect May 29, 2012, to link active companies to other companies previously placed out of service. This new out-of-service (OOS) order action expands FMCSA’s authority to take action against unsafe motor carriers that attempt to evade enforcement by “reincarnating” into other forms or by illegally continuing their operations through affiliate companies.

### **Requests to Congress**

- To protect the traveling public and save lives, the Agency has asked Congress to adopt several safety provisions that it is considering in the surface transportation bill that would further protect bus customers by:
  - Granting FMCSA greater authority to pursue enforcement action against unsafe “reincarnated” companies by establishing a single national standard for successor liability that eliminates the loophole allowing bus and truck companies that have been shut down for unsafe operations to recreate themselves;
  - Eliminating the jurisdictional gap that prevents FMCSA from directly regulating passenger carrier *brokers*, including ticket sellers that are not also motor carriers;
  - Requiring new passenger carriers to undergo a full safety audit before receiving operating authority; and
  - Raising the penalty from \$2,200 to \$25,000 a day against passenger carriers that attempt to operate without valid USDOT operating authority.

### **Consumer Outreach and Bus Safety Tools**

- In March 2012, FMCSA unveiled its SaferBus iPhone/iPad application – a first-of-its-kind app that gives consumers a quick and free way to “*Look Before You Book*” at a bus company’s safety record and make smart safety decisions before buying a ticket, booking a trip or boarding a bus. SaferBus enables consumers to determine how much information they want to make travel decisions based on a bus company’s overall safety record.
- As of May 29, 2012, the SaferBus App has been downloaded 4,069 times across 40 countries with 19,344 searches conducted.
- In September 2011, FMCSA held a National Motorcoach Safety Summit that attracted over 200 safety advocates, motorcoach company owners, bus drivers, tour operators, brokers, law enforcement leaders, government officials and concerned citizens to discuss solutions to strengthen motorcoach safety. To view the summit, go to <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security/PCS/motorcoach-safety.aspx>.
- FMCSA offers other free, user-friendly, online tools to select the safest bus company including:
  - FMCSA’s “Think Safety: Every Trip, Every Time” safety checklist available online at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov). This safety checklist helps consumers review a bus company's safety record, safety rating and USDOT operating authority status before buying a ticket or hiring a bus company for group travel. The checklist is available for download in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
  - FMCSA’s Consumer Safety Hotline (1-888-DOT-SAFT) that enables the public to immediately report any unsafe bus company or driver.

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