



CDL Passenger Bus

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1. When inspecting a bus before a trip, which of the following must you check on every emergency exit door?

- A. That it has a working intercom connected to the driver's compartment
- B. That it displays the bus route number in reflective letters
- C. That it is locked from the outside so passengers cannot open it while the bus is moving
- D. That it opens easily, closes securely, and is not obstructed

2. During a pre-trip inspection, you discover that one passenger seat is loose and rocks noticeably when you push it. What should you do?

- A. Report the defect and do not drive the bus until the seat is secured or removed from service
- B. Allow passengers to use the seat as long as the seat belt still works
- C. Place a 'reserved' sign on it and report it after your shift
- D. Secure it temporarily with duct tape so it does not shift during the trip

3. What is the purpose of the standee line marked on the floor of many transit buses?

- A. It marks the boundary behind which passengers must stand when the bus is in reverse
- B. It shows the maximum weight-loading zone at the rear of the bus
- C. It marks how far forward standing passengers may stand — they must stay behind it
- D. It indicates where wheelchair tie-downs must be positioned

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4. Which of the following is a signaling device you must verify is working during a bus pre-trip inspection?

- A. Public address (PA) intercom for passenger announcements
- B. Destination sign display
- C. Horn
- D. Fare box receipt printer



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5. During pre-trip inspection of a bus, you must check that handrails are:

- A. Removed on low-floor buses to prevent tripping hazards in the aisle
- B. Secure, free of sharp edges, and not missing from any step or aisle location where required
- C. Made of stainless steel only and anchored with no more than four bolts each
- D. Painted a bright contrasting color visible from ten feet away

6. Which of the following conditions found during a pre-trip inspection would make a bus UNSAFE to drive?

- A. The exterior paint on the rear bumper is faded and chipped
- B. An emergency exit window is cracked and the emergency release handle is missing
- C. The destination sign is blank because the display software needs an update
- D. One stepwell light is burned out on a daytime-only route

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7. When inspecting stepwells on a bus before a trip, you should verify that they are:

- A. Equipped with a fold-down step that deploys automatically when the door opens
- B. Covered with fresh non-skid tape applied within the last 90 days
- C. Clear of debris, ice, or any obstruction, and that the step surfaces are in good condition
- D. Wide enough for two passengers to board side by side per ADA standards

8. Which of the following items is required emergency equipment that you must confirm is present and accessible on a bus before driving?

- A. A bolt cutter and a high-visibility traffic cone for each emergency door
- B. A tow chain and a hydraulic jack rated for the bus's gross vehicle weight
- C. Fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency reflectors or flares
- D. A spare fan belt and a set of jumper cables

9. You are conducting a post-trip inspection after dropping off all passengers. Which bus-specific task must be included that is NOT required on a standard truck post-trip inspection?

- A. Draining the air tanks to remove moisture
- B. Lubricating the fifth-wheel plate and checking king-pin wear
- C. Testing the ABS warning light by cycling the ignition three times
- D. Walking the entire interior to check that no passengers remain and no items were left that could create a hazard



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10. A passenger attempts to board with a small oxygen concentrator needed for a medical condition. Under FMCSA rules, you should:

- A. Refuse boarding because compressed oxygen is hazardous material prohibited on all buses
- B. Allow it in the passenger compartment as a small-quantity medical oxygen device used by a passenger, which is among the narrow exceptions to the hazmat prohibition
- C. Allow the device only if it is stowed in the luggage compartment below the floor
- D. Require the passenger to sign a liability waiver before the device is brought aboard

11. During pre-trip inspection you find that the emergency roof hatches on the bus do not latch shut — they flutter slightly when you push them. Which of the following best describes the correct action and the regulatory reason?

- A. Place the bus out of service; roof hatches are required emergency exits that must both open readily and latch securely when closed
- B. Tape them shut temporarily; the requirement is only that hatches open from the inside, not that they latch closed
- C. Notify the dispatcher by radio and proceed; federal rules allow operation for up to 24 hours pending repair of roof hatches
- D. Drive the route because roof hatches are ventilation items, not safety-critical exits, and need only work in the open direction

12. You are inspecting a bus that will cross an active drawbridge today. Which statement about drawbridge procedures is CORRECT per the CDL manual?

- A. A bus with fewer than 16 passengers is exempt from the drawbridge stop requirement
- B. Buses must stop before a drawbridge unless there is a traffic control signal showing green AND the bridge is not the type that must always be stopped at
- C. Buses must stop and yield only if the drawbridge signal is activated; a stationary bridge with no signal requires no special stop
- D. The bus must stop, and the driver must personally inspect the bridge grating before proceeding regardless of traffic signals

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13. A school bus driver completes a route and parks the bus. During the required post-trip inspection walk-through, the driver finds a student's backpack but no child. What does the CDL manual require the driver to do next?

- A. Search the entire bus thoroughly — including under seats and in any storage areas — to confirm no child is concealed or unconscious on board before securing the vehicle
- B. Leave the backpack at the front of the bus and file a lost-and-found report with the dispatcher
- C. Check only the rear emergency door area, as concealed children are almost always found near exits
- D. Lock the bus and call the school; the child likely departed at an earlier stop

14. What is the purpose of the standee line on a bus?

- A. It shows the driver where to stop at bus terminals
- B. It marks the boundary behind which standing passengers must remain
- C. It indicates the maximum luggage storage area
- D. It identifies the location of the emergency exit

15. Which of the following is true regarding standing passengers on a bus?

- A. Standing passengers may stand anywhere as long as they hold a handrail
- B. No passenger may stand forward of the standee line while the bus is moving
- C. Standing passengers are allowed behind the driver only when all seats are taken
- D. Standing is only prohibited on the steps near the entrance door

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16. Which type of cargo is generally prohibited from being carried in the passenger compartment of a bus?

- A. Carry-on luggage stored in overhead racks
- B. Hazardous materials
- C. Musical instruments in soft cases
- D. Folded strollers placed in the aisle

17. Where must baggage and cargo be stowed on a bus to comply with safety regulations?

- A. Only in the driver's area for safekeeping
- B. At the front of the bus so the driver can monitor it
- C. In a location where it will not block exits or fall on passengers
- D. In any available space including the aisle if secured with bungee cords



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18. A passenger wants to board your bus carrying a small container of gasoline for a lawn mower. What should you do?

- A. Refuse to allow it because flammable liquids are prohibited in the passenger space
- B. Allow it as long as it is placed in the overhead rack
- C. Allow it only if it is placed in the luggage bay under the bus
- D. Allow it if the container is tightly sealed and stored under the seat

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19. Which of the following hazardous materials categories is permitted in small amounts inside the passenger space of a bus?

- A. Small-arms ammunition, toiletry articles, and medical supplies carried by passengers for personal use
- B. Division 2.3 poison gases
- C. Class 7 radioactive materials in secure containers
- D. Flammable solids and oxidizers in any quantity

20. Before beginning a trip, you notice that a large suitcase has been placed in the aisle halfway between the front and rear doors. What is the correct action?

- A. Move or have it moved so the aisle and exits remain unobstructed
- B. Allow it if no passengers are seated near the suitcase
- C. Secure it with rope to the nearest seat leg
- D. Allow it provided the trip is less than 30 minutes

21. A standing passenger boards and moves to the area directly beside the driver's seat. What must you do before moving the bus?

- A. Ask the passenger to show their ticket before proceeding
- B. Instruct the passenger to sit on the floor if no seats are available
- C. Close the door and warn the passenger verbally to hold on
- D. Ensure the passenger is behind the standee line before moving

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22. Which statement best describes the standee line requirement for charter buses that carry only seated passengers?

- A. The rule still applies; no passenger may stand forward of the line even on charter trips
- B. Charter buses are exempt from the standee line rule entirely
- C. Charter buses must paint the standee line red instead of white
- D. The standee line rule applies only when the bus is operating in an urban area

23. While loading passengers, you notice several carry-on bags are blocking the emergency rear door. What is the correct procedure?

- A. Post a sign reminding passengers to keep exits clear
- B. Allow boarding to continue and address the bags after departure
- C. Only clear the bags if the route passes through a tunnel or bridge
- D. Require the bags to be relocated before departing so the emergency exit is accessible

24. A passenger boards with a box labeled ORM-D (Consumer Commodity). Under FMCSA rules, how should you handle this item?

- A. Accept it only if the passenger signs a liability waiver
- B. Refuse it outright because all ORM-D items are banned from buses
- C. Accept it because ORM-D consumer commodities carried by passengers in limited quantities are among the narrow exceptions permitted in the passenger space
- D. Accept it only if it is placed in the baggage compartment under the bus, never in the passenger area

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25. Your bus is equipped with a brake-door interlock system. A passenger is still boarding when the interlock releases. What does this indicate?

- A. It is a signal that all passengers are seated behind the standee line
- B. The interlock has malfunctioned and the door must be manually latched
- C. The brakes have failed and service is required immediately
- D. The door is now fully closed and the brakes are released, allowing the bus to move



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26. At trip start you find overhead rack cargo that could shift and injure a passenger if the bus brakes hard, but the rack is not blocking any exit. What is the correct action under CDL passenger rules?

- A. Proceed because the item is not blocking any exit and the rule only covers exits
- B. Proceed only if the rack has a safety net
- C. Issue a verbal warning to passengers seated below the rack and then depart
- D. Require the cargo to be properly secured before moving because regulations prohibit cargo that could fall on passengers regardless of exit blockage

27. A passenger discloses they are carrying a Division 6.1 (toxic) material in a small, sealed container for legitimate medical use. Under FMCSA passenger transport rules, which response is most accurate?

- A. You may allow it because all medical materials are freely permitted in any quantity
- B. Allow it only if the passenger rides in the rear two rows away from other passengers
- C. Certain medical-related materials in limited, personal-use quantities may fall under a narrow exception, but you must verify compliance with the specific quantity and packaging limits before allowing it
- D. Division 6.1 toxic materials are absolutely prohibited in the passenger space with no exceptions whatsoever

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28. When approaching a railroad-highway crossing, a bus driver must stop no closer than _____ feet and no farther than _____ feet from the nearest rail.

- A. 10 feet and 30 feet
- B. 5 feet and 25 feet
- C. 15 feet and 50 feet
- D. 20 feet and 60 feet

29. Why must a bus driver NEVER change gears while crossing railroad tracks?

- A. It causes excessive wear on the transmission
- B. Regulations prohibit manual shifting in school zones only
- C. The stall risk could leave the bus stopped on the tracks
- D. It reduces brake effectiveness on the far side



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30. A standee line is marked on the floor of a transit bus to indicate where standing passengers must stand. Where is this line located relative to the driver?

- A. Behind the rear axle
- B. At the emergency exit
- C. At the front door threshold
- D. At or behind a line two feet behind the driver



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — That it opens easily, closes securely, and is not obstructed

The FMCSA CDL manual requires that emergency exit doors open easily from both inside and outside, close and latch securely, and remain free of obstructions so they are usable in an emergency.

2. A — Report the defect and do not drive the bus until the seat is secured or removed from service

The CDL manual states that seats must be securely fastened to the bus; a loose seat is a defect that must be reported and corrected before the vehicle is placed in service.

3. C — It marks how far forward standing passengers may stand — they must stay behind it

Federal regulations require that standing passengers on a transit bus remain behind the standee line, which is located behind the driver's seat area to keep the driver's view and controls unobstructed.

4. C — Horn

The CDL manual lists the horn as a required signaling device that must be inspected and confirmed operational before every trip.

5. B — Secure, free of sharp edges, and not missing from any step or aisle location where required

The CDL manual requires handrails to be secure and free of damage such as sharp edges or breaks, as they are essential passenger safety items that must be present and usable at required locations.

6. B — An emergency exit window is cracked and the emergency release handle is missing

A missing or inoperable emergency exit release mechanism is a critical safety defect; the CDL manual states that emergency exits must operate properly, and a bus with a non-functional emergency exit must not be driven until repaired.

7. C — Clear of debris, ice, or any obstruction, and that the step surfaces are in good condition

The CDL manual requires that stepwells be kept clear and in good condition so passengers can board and exit safely; slippery or obstructed steps create a fall hazard and constitute a reportable defect.

8. C — Fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency reflectors or flares

The FMCSA CDL manual specifies that buses must carry a properly charged fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and emergency warning devices (reflective triangles, flares, or fuses) that must be inspected and confirmed present before each trip.

9. D — Walking the entire interior to check that no passengers remain and no items were left that could create a hazard

The CDL manual requires bus drivers to walk through the interior after every trip to confirm no passengers — including sleeping children — are left on board and to identify any hazardous items left behind.

10. B — Allow it in the passenger compartment as a small-quantity medical oxygen device used by a passenger, which is among the narrow exceptions to the hazmat prohibition

The CDL manual notes that while hazardous materials are generally prohibited in the passenger



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compartment, small amounts of medical oxygen for personal use by a passenger are a recognized exception under the hazmat rules.

11. A — Place the bus out of service; roof hatches are required emergency exits that must both open readily and latch securely when closed

The FMCSA CDL manual classifies roof hatches as emergency exits; they must open readily for evacuation AND latch securely when closed to maintain structural integrity and prevent inflight opening, so a hatch that will not latch is a defect that takes the bus out of service.

12. B — Buses must stop before a drawbridge unless there is a traffic control signal showing green AND the bridge is not the type that must always be stopped at

The CDL manual specifies that a bus must stop before a drawbridge unless a traffic-control signal is green AND the bridge is not designated as one requiring a mandatory stop; simply having no flashing lights is not sufficient to waive the stop requirement.

13. A — Search the entire bus thoroughly — including under seats and in any storage areas — to confirm no child is concealed or unconscious on board before securing the vehicle

The CDL manual's post-trip inspection requirement for school buses mandates a complete interior walk-through to every corner of the bus, including under seats and storage areas, to ensure no child is left behind before the vehicle is secured.

14. B — It marks the boundary behind which standing passengers must remain

The standee line is a marked line two feet behind the driver's seat, and no standing passenger is permitted to stand forward of it while the bus is in motion.

15. B — No passenger may stand forward of the standee line while the bus is moving

Federal regulations require that no passenger stand forward of the standee line, which is located two feet behind and parallel to the driver's seat.

16. B — Hazardous materials

The FMCSA CDL manual states that buses must not carry hazardous materials in the passenger space, with only narrow exceptions for small quantities of certain items.

17. C — In a location where it will not block exits or fall on passengers

CDL regulations require that all baggage and cargo be secured so it does not block emergency exits, the aisle, or the driver's view, and will not shift and injure passengers.

18. A — Refuse to allow it because flammable liquids are prohibited in the passenger space

Flammable liquids such as gasoline are classified as hazardous materials and are prohibited from the passenger compartment of a bus under FMCSA regulations.

19. A — Small-arms ammunition, toiletry articles, and medical supplies carried by passengers for personal use

The CDL manual identifies narrow exceptions that allow passengers to carry certain items such as small-arms ammunition, personal-use toiletries, and medical supplies in limited quantities inside the bus.

20. A — Move or have it moved so the aisle and exits remain unobstructed

Federal regulations require that baggage and cargo not obstruct the aisle or any emergency exit, so the suitcase must be properly stowed before the trip can begin.



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21. D — Ensure the passenger is behind the standee line before moving

No passenger may stand forward of the standee line while the vehicle is in motion, so the driver must confirm the passenger has moved behind the line before proceeding.

22. A — The rule still applies; no passenger may stand forward of the line even on charter trips

The standee line requirement applies to all buses that allow standees regardless of trip type; the rule is not waived simply because the service is chartered.

23. D — Require the bags to be relocated before departing so the emergency exit is accessible

All emergency exits must remain unobstructed at all times; bags blocking any emergency door must be removed or repositioned before the bus moves.

24. C — Accept it because ORM-D consumer commodities carried by passengers in limited quantities are among the narrow exceptions permitted in the passenger space

The CDL passenger transport section lists ORM-D consumer commodities as one of the narrow exceptions that may be carried inside the passenger compartment when in the quantities normally associated with personal use.

25. D — The door is now fully closed and the brakes are released, allowing the bus to move

A brake-door interlock holds the service brakes and keeps the throttle inactive while the door is open; when the door is closed the interlock releases the brakes, signaling it is mechanically safe to proceed.

26. D — Require the cargo to be properly secured before moving because regulations prohibit cargo that could fall on passengers regardless of exit blockage

CDL regulations require that baggage and cargo be secured so it will not fall on or injure passengers in addition to not blocking exits, so unsecured shifting cargo must be secured before departure.

27. C — Certain medical-related materials in limited, personal-use quantities may fall under a narrow exception, but you must verify compliance with the specific quantity and packaging limits before allowing it

The CDL manual acknowledges narrow, specific exceptions for certain medical and personal-use materials, but the driver must confirm the item falls within the stated quantity and packaging limits before permitting it in the passenger space.

28. C — 15 feet and 50 feet

The FMCSA CDL manual requires buses to stop between 15 and 50 feet from the nearest rail at all railroad-highway crossings before proceeding.

29. C — The stall risk could leave the bus stopped on the tracks

CDL passenger rules prohibit changing gears on railroad tracks because a gear change could cause the engine to stall, leaving the bus stranded in a highly dangerous position on the crossing.

30. D — At or behind a line two feet behind the driver

The FMCSA manual states that no standee passenger may stand forward of the standee line, which is painted or marked two feet behind the driver, to keep passengers clear of the driver and the front door.



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