

Transportation Department Safety & Training Unit 10: Activity Trips - Law

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13 CCR § 1229 DRIVING PROFICIENCY

Motor carriers shall require each driver to demonstrate that the driver is capable of safely operating each different type of vehicle or vehicle combination (i.e., vehicles with different controls, gauges, of different size, or requiring different driving skills) before driving such vehicle(s) on a highway unsupervised. The driver's capability to operate the vehicle shall include special equipment such as wheelchair lifts, ramps, or wheelchair tie downs. This Section shall not apply to a motor carrier who is the owner and sole driver of a vehicle or combination of vehicles.

13 CCR § 1230 UNLAWFUL OPERATION

No motor carrier shall knowingly require or permit the operation of any vehicle that is not in safe operating condition or not equipped and maintained as required by any law or this chapter; or knowingly require or permit any driver to drive in violation of any law or this chapter.

- (a) Out-of-Service Vehicles. Authorized employees of the department may declare and mark any vehicle "out of service" in accordance with Section 1239, when its hazardous condition or loading appears likely to cause an accident, injury, or breakdown. A vehicle so marked shall not be operated, nor shall the out of service notice be removed, until the vehicle is safe to drive.
- (b) Damaged Vehicles. A vehicle damaged by an accident or other cause shall not be driven from the location where the damage occurred until it has been inspected by a qualified person who has determined that the vehicle is safe to drive.

14606 VC PERMITTING UNLICENSED PERSONS TO DRIVE

- (a) A person shall not employ, hire, knowingly permit, or authorize any person to drive a motor vehicle owned by him or her or under his or her control upon the highways unless that person is licensed for the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven.
- (b) Whenever a person fails to qualify, on reexamination, to operate a commercial motor vehicle, an employer shall report that failure to the department within 10 days.
- (c) An employer shall obtain from a driver required to have a commercial driver's license or commercial endorsement a copy of the driver's medical certification before allowing the driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle. The employer shall retain the certification as part of a driver qualification file.
- (d) This section shall become operative on January 30, 2014.

14603 VC VIOLATIONS OF LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

No person shall operate a vehicle in violation of the provisions of a restricted license issued to him/her.

12517.4 VC SPECIAL DRIVER CERTIFICATE

This section governs the issuance of a certificate to drive a school bus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, general public paratransit vehicle, or farm labor vehicle.

- (a) The driver certificate shall be issued only to applicants meeting all applicable provisions of this code and passing the examinations prescribed by the department and the Department of the California Highway Patrol. The examinations shall be conducted by the Department of the California Highway Patrol, pursuant to Sections 12517, 12519, 12522, 12523, and 12523.5.
- (b) A temporary driver certificate shall be issued by the Department of the California Highway Patrol after an applicant has cleared a criminal history background check by the Department of Justice and, if applicable, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and has passed the examinations and meets all other applicable provisions of this code.
- (c) A permanent driver's certificate shall be issued by the department after an applicant has passed all tests and met all applicable provisions of this code. Certificates are valid for a maximum of five years and shall expire on the fifth birthday following the issuance of an original certificate or the expiration of the certificate renewed.
- (d) A holder of a certificate may not violate any restriction placed on the certificate. Depending upon the type of vehicle used in the driving test and the abilities and physical condition of the applicant, the Department of the California Highway Patrol and the department may place restrictions on a certificate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle and safe transportation of passengers. These restrictions may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - (1) Automatic transmission only.
 - (2) Hydraulic brakes only.
 - (3) Type 2 bus only.
 - (4) Conventional or type 2 bus only.
 - (5) Two-axle motor truck or passenger vehicle only.
- (e) A holder of a certificate may not drive a motor vehicle equipped with a two-speed rear axle unless the certificate is endorsed: "May drive vehicle with two-speed rear axle."
- (f) This section shall become operative on September 20, 2005.

13 CCR § 1212 DRIVING HOURS

- (a) General. The rules in this section, unless otherwise specified, apply to all intrastate motor carriers and drivers.
- (b) Adverse driving conditions.
 - (1) A driver who encounters adverse driving conditions, as defined in Section 1201, and cannot, because of those conditions, safely complete the run within the maximum driving time permitted by Section 1212.5 may drive and be permitted or required to drive for not more than 2 additional hours in order to complete that run or to reach a place offering safety for vehicle occupants and security for the vehicle and its cargo. However, that driver may not drive or be permitted to drive:

- (A) More than 12 hours in the aggregate for bus drivers and 14 hours for truck drivers following eight consecutive hours off duty for bus drivers and ten consecutive hours off duty for truck drivers; or
- (B) After the driver has been on duty 15 hours following eight consecutive hours off duty for bus drivers and after the end of the 16th hour after coming on duty, following ten consecutive hours off duty, for truck drivers.
- (2) Emergency conditions. In the event of a traffic accident, medical emergency, or disaster, a driver may complete his/her run without being in violation of the provisions of these regulations, if such run reasonably could have been completed absent the emergency.
- (3) Relief Point. Bus drivers (other than school bus and school pupil activity bus drivers) in urban and suburban service may exceed their regulated hours in order to reach a regularly scheduled relief point, providing the additional time does not exceed one hour.
- (c) 100 air-mile radius driver. A driver is exempt from the requirements of Section 1213 if:
 - (1) The driver operates within a 100 air-mile radius of the normal work reporting location;
 - (2) The driver, except a driver salesperson, returns to the work reporting location and is released from work within 12 consecutive hours;
 - (3) The driver of a school bus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or farm labor vehicle returns to the work reporting location and is released from work before the end of the 16th hour after coming on duty;
 - (4) At least eight consecutive hours off duty for bus drivers and ten consecutive hours off duty for truck drivers, separate each 12 hours on duty; and
 - (5) The motor carrier that employs the driver maintains and retains for a period of six months accurate and true time records showing:
 - (A) The time the driver reports for duty each day;
 - (B) The total number of hours the driver is on duty each day;
 - (C) The time the driver is released from duty each day; and
 - (D) The total time for the preceding seven days in accordance with Section 1213(k)(2) for drivers used for the first time or intermittently.

13 CCR § 1212.5 MAXIMUM DRIVING AND ON-DUTY TIME

- (a) Maximum driving time. Except as provided in Sections 1212(b)(1), 1212(f), 1212(i), 1212(j), 1212(k), and 1212(l), no motor carrier shall permit or require any driver used by it to drive nor shall any such driver drive:
 - 3) School Bus, School Pupil Activity Bus, Youth Bus and Farm Labor Vehicle Drivers:
 - A. More than ten hours within a work period; or
 - B. After the end of the 16th hour after coming on duty following eight consecutive hours off duty.

22350 VC BASIC SPEED LAW

No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.

22406 VC MAXIMUM SPEED LAW

No person may drive any of the following vehicles on a highway at a speed in excess of 55 miles per hour:

- (a) A motor truck or truck tractor having three or more axles or any motor truck or truck tractor drawing any other vehicle.
- (b) A passenger vehicle or bus drawing any other vehicle.
- (c) A school bus transporting any school pupil.
- (d) A farm labor vehicle when transporting passengers.
- (e) A vehicle transporting explosives.
- (f) A trailer bus, as defined in Section 636.

21656 VC MINIMUM SPEED LAW

On a two-lane highway where passing is unsafe because of traffic in the opposite direction or other conditions, any vehicle proceeding upon the highway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction at that time, behind which five or more vehicles are formed in line, shall turn off the roadway at the nearest place designated as a turnout by signs erected by the authority having jurisdiction over the highway, or wherever sufficient area for a safe turnout exists, in order to permit the vehicles following it to proceed.

21655 VC DESIGNATED LANES

- (a) Whenever the Department of Transportation or local authorities with respect to highways under their respective jurisdictions determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the designation of a specific lane or lanes for the travel of vehicles required to travel at reduced speeds would facilitate the safe and orderly movement of traffic, the department or local authority may designate a specific lane or lanes for the travel of vehicles which are subject to the provisions of Section 22406 and shall erect signs at reasonable intervals giving notice thereof.
- (b) Any trailer bus, except as provided in Section 21655.5, and any vehicle subject to the provisions of Section 22406 shall be driven in the lane or lanes designated pursuant to subdivision (a) whenever signs have been erected giving notice of that designation. Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, when a specific lane or lanes have not been so designated, any of those vehicles shall be driven in the right-hand lane for traffic or as close as practicable to the right edge or curb. If, however, a specific lane or lanes have not been designated on a divided highway having four or more clearly marked lanes for traffic in one direction, any of those vehicles may also be driven in the lane to the immediate left of that right-hand lane, unless otherwise prohibited under this code. When overtaking and passing another

vehicle proceeding in the same direction, the driver shall use either the designated lane, the lane to the immediate left of the right-hand lane, or the right-hand lane for traffic as permitted under this code.

This subdivision does not apply to a driver who is preparing for a left- or right-hand turn or who is entering into or exiting from a highway or to a driver who must necessarily drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane to continue on his or her intended route.

21758 VC PASSING ON GRADES

In the event any vehicle is being operated on any grade outside of a business or residence district at a speed of less than 20 miles per hour, no person operating any other motor vehicle shall attempt to overtake and pass such slow moving vehicle unless the overtaking vehicle is operated at a speed of at least 10 miles per hour in excess of the speed of the overtaken vehicle, nor unless the passing movement is completed within a total distance not greater than one-quarter of a mile.

13 CCR § 1217 (E) STANDING PASSENGERS

No driver shall drive a vehicle transporting passengers in violation of the following provisions:

(e) Standing Passengers. A vehicle shall not be put in motion until all passengers are seated, and all passengers must remain seated while the vehicle is in motion. Standing passengers are permitted only on a bus (except a school bus, SPAB, or youth bus) operated in regularly scheduled passenger stage service or urban and suburban service by a common carrier or publicly-owned transit system, and equipped with grab handles or other means of support for standing passengers, and constructed so that standing room in the aisle is at least 74 in. high.

EDC 39831.5 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(4) Prior to departure on a school activity trip, all pupils riding on a school bus or school pupil activity bus shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, location of emergency exits, and location and use of emergency equipment. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

13 CCR § 1216 (C) TRANSPORTING OF EXTRA EQUIPMENT

The following requirements govern the transportation of hazardous materials and other property on buses and farm labor vehicles:

(c) General Property. Drivers and motor carriers shall not permit any greater quantity of freight, express, or baggage in vehicles than can be safely and conveniently carried without causing discomfort or unreasonable annoyance to passengers. In no event shall aisles, doors, steps, or emergency exits be blocked.

5 CCR § 14103 AUTHORITY OF THE DRIVER

(a) Pupils transported in a school bus or in a school pupil activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway or road. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus enroute between home and school or other destinations.

Unit 10 Quiz

 Activity trips present no more problems than a regular home-to-school run for a driver. FF
 According to Federal bus accident reports, many accidents on activity trips are caused by the bus driver. FF
3. In California, the carrier is required by law to verify that the driver is proficient and capable of safely operating any vehicle assigned him or her on a highway unsupervised. TF
 4. A carrier may allow a driver to use a bus that is not properly maintained or equipped, if the trip is to be very short. TF
 Restrictions on a driver's certificate can be waived if the supervisor approves the trip. FF
6. A driver may be permitted to go beyond the normal driving hours if the situation was created by adverse weather conditions. TF
7. If extra equipment is carried, it must not block the aisles, steps, windows, or emergency exits. TF
8. If you are traveling in a convoy on an activity trip and the lead driver exceeds 55 mph, you should also exceed 55 mph to stay with the convoy. TF
9. Slow moving vehicles are required by law to pull off the roadway where a safe turnout exists to allow following traffic to proceed. TF

10. School buses need not be concerned with lane restrictions on highways. Γ F
11. A successful activity trip is the result of effective and efficient pre-trip planning. ΓF
12. The driver should always conduct a brief explanation on safe riding practices and emergency evacuation procedures before leaving the departure point on each activity trip. ΓF
13. Any time a stop is made, for any reason, the driver should perform a safety check on the bus. ΓF
14. The driver need not know how many pupils are on a trip because the teacher has a list of names. ΓF
15. The teacher is in charge and is responsible for the safety of the passengers on a crip. ΓF
16. If any emergency happens, your first responsibility, as a driver, is to your passengers. ΓF
17. If traveling in an area and there is a possibility of snow, the driver should check tire chains prior to departing. ΓF