Perimeter seating bus safety monitors

There are specific safety requirements for vehicles that provide perimeter seating for 12 or more passengers. These vehicles are called perimeter seating buses (e.g., limos, party buses and stretch SUVs).

Safety monitors must be present on a perimeter seating buses if there are unaccompanied minors onboard. A minor is a person who has not yet reached age 19. Legal guardians must give consent for unaccompanied minors to ride in a perimeter seating bus.

Safety monitor training and background checks

Safety monitors must have current safety training and meet criminal record-check requirements. Licensees must ensure this training and background check requirements are met before operating a perimeter seating bus for a group of passengers that includes one or more unaccompanied minors.

A safety monitor must:

- Be at least 25 years of age
- Have the training and have undergone a background check as specified by the board
- Be employed or retained by the licensee

The safety monitor must not be the driver of the perimeter seating bus.

Safety monitor rule

1. General requirement

Whether the Safety Monitor is an employee, contractor or shareholder of the licensee, or is some other person, the licensee:

1.1. is responsible for ensuring that requirements in this rule are met respecting criminal record checks, training and records respecting criminal record checks and training; and

1.2. must not provide service with a perimeter seating bus unless the licensee has met all applicable requirements in:

1.2.1. sections 12.2 and 12.3 of the Passenger Transportation Regulation; and

1.2.2. this rule.

2. Criminal record check requirement

The licensee may only use a safety monitor in its vehicle when:

2.1. The licensee has confirmed the identity of the safety monitor with the safety monitor’s current, government-issued identification that includes a photograph and date of birth; and

2.2. The licensee has reviewed a criminal record check issued within three years of the service date, and information in the check does not indicate a risk for working with children.

3. First Aid training requirement

The Safety Monitor must, on the date service is provided, hold valid first aid certification which must:

3.1. be obtained by successful training through one of the following courses:

3.1.1. Standard First Aid with Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) / Automated External Defibrillation (AED);

3.1.2. Emergency First Aid with CPR/AED;

3.1.3. Occupational First Aid Level 1 with CPR/AED; or

3.1.4. a course that exceeds requirements of any course listed above; and

3.2. include CPR/AED training* for the age group for which the Safety Monitor is responsible;

3.3. be obtained from the Canadian Red Cross or another first-aid training provider recognized by WorkSafeBC;

3.4. include practical training in person and in-person competency testing; and

3.5. be issued within 3 years of the date of service.

* Completion of a standard or emergency first aid course with CPR/AED Level C training provides CPR training for all age groups: adults, children and infants.

A safety monitor with Occupational First Aid certification will have Level A training for performing CPR on adults and will also require certification from a CPR/AED Level C course.

4. Naloxone training requirements

The licensee must ensure that the Safety Monitor has, within the past three years, received a certificate for completing the BC Centre for Disease Control “Naloxone Training Online” course provided through “Toward the Heart.”

5. Safety monitor training requirements

The licensee must ensure that the Safety Monitor has, within the past three years, received pre-service or refresher training that covers the subjects listed below:

5.1. responsibilities and roles of the licensee, driver, safety monitor(s), minors on the vehicle and all other passengers with respect to applicable laws and regulations in BC;

5.2. routine steps a Safety Monitor must take before, during and after the licensee provides service with a perimeter seating bus—and special steps a Safety Monitor must take in an emergency;

5.3. familiarization with the physical openings, door mechanisms, window mechanisms and safety equipment while on a perimeter seating bus;

5.4. review of the licensee's PSB Safety Monitor procedures:

5.4.1. to ensure communication and teamwork with the licensee, driver, unaccompanied minors, other passengers and, as needed, passengers' parents and legal guardians who are not travelling on the vehicle;

5.4.2. to ensure that Safety Monitors conduct pre-trip checks of:

5.4.2.1. passenger information respecting health; medications; allergies; disabilities and any special medical or other needs; emergency instructions and contacts; permissions from parents or legal guardians; and BC Personal Health Numbers (or equivalent);

5.4.2.2. safety equipment and first aid supplies (including a Naloxone kit)on board the vehicle; and

5.4.2.3. seat belt inspection to ensure that all seat belts are exposed and are easily visible (i.e., not tucked into a seat and hidden) in the passenger compartment;

5.4.3. to ensure a coordinated response to an incident;

5.4.4. to ensure that unaccompanied minors and other passengers are accounted for at all times during a trip, both on and off a vehicle;

5.4.5 .to ensure the securement of doors, windows, skylights, safety equipment and personal items in the passenger compartment;

5.4.6. to ensure safe vehicle entry and exit in both routine and emergency circumstances;

5.4.7. to ensure secure seating, and that all passengers are wearing a seat belt if the bus is equipped with them, and safe conduct of minors and adults inside a moving vehicle, and safe conduct when passengers are inside or outside the vehicle while stopped;

5.4.8. to ensure timely and appropriate incident reporting to the driver, employer and emergency responders,

5.4.9. to ensure appropriate incident record-keeping for all vehicle occupants; and

5.4.10. to ensure safe and timely decision making on when and how to send a minor home due to serious misconduct or health issues—including communications and contact with parents, legal guardians, and medical personnel;

5.5. general professional conduct expected of the Safety Monitor; and

5.6. protection of confidential information received from passengers (e.g. health information shared by a passenger; emergency contact information).

6. Record keeping requirements

The licensee must retain, for at least one year from the date an individual last provided service as a Safety Monitor on the licensee's perimeter seating bus ("date of service") , a copy the Safety Monitor's:

6.1. government-issued identification;

6.2. criminal record check that was issued within 3 years of the date of service;

6.3. record of Safety Monitor training or refresher training within 3 years of the date of service that includes the required content specified in section 5 above, and which has been signed and dated by the licensee and Safety Monitor; and

6.4. certificate that was issued within 3 years for completing naloxone training online.

Related topics:

- First Aid Training Providers (WorkSafeBC List of BC Providers)
- First Aid Training (Canadian Red Cross)
- Overdose awareness Naloxone information