

**CHAPTER 7470**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**STATE PATROL DIVISION**  
**SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION CERTIFICATES**

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**7470.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings given them.

Subp. 2. **Certificate.** "Certificate" means a school bus inspection certificate required by the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 169.451, subdivision 2.

Subp. 3. **Rejection sticker.** "Rejection sticker" means a sticker signifying the vehicle to which it is affixed is not to be used for school bus purposes. The size of the rejection sticker may not be larger than the inspection certificate.

Subp. 4. **State patrol.** "State patrol" means the Minnesota state patrol, or an individual state trooper thereof or a state patrol law compliance representative II (LCR II) employed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 299D.06.

Subp. 5. **Temporary certificate.** "Temporary certificate" means a distinctive certificate indicating a school bus was found to have deficiencies of a nature not substantially affecting safety of operation.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*

**7470.0200 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish rules governing the issuance and display of school bus inspection certificates, consistent with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 169.451, and to establish a point system to evaluate the effect on safety operation of any variance from law detected during school bus inspection, consistent with the mandate of the legislature.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*

**7470.0300 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE.**

The certificate shall be issued for an individual bus on an annual basis when the state patrol has inspected the vehicle and the inspection indicates that the school bus adequately complies with laws and rules relating to construction, design, equipment, and color of school bus.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*

**7470.0400 DISPLAY OF CERTIFICATE.**

Subpart 1. **Certificate to be affixed.** The certificate issued for each individual school bus shall be immediately affixed to the school bus by the inspecting state patrol trooper or LCR II.

Subp. 2. **Certificate must be current.** Only the certificate that is valid for the current time period may be displayed.

Subp. 3. **Where displayed.** The certificate shall be affixed in the lower left corner of the main windshield of the school bus.

Subp. 4. **Rejection sticker; display; removal.** A rejection sticker shall be affixed to the lower left corner of the windshield of a school bus that fails a school bus inspection. The sticker shall be removed only upon authorization from an LCR II or trooper who has determined that the defects that caused the rejection have been corrected.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*

**7470.0500 TIMES OF INSPECTION.**

Subpart 1. **Scheduled inspection.** All school buses shall be inspected for compliance with applicable laws and with rules of the State Board of Education as stated in parts 3520.2400 to 3520.5800 of the State Board of Education.

Subp. 2. **Other inspections.** In addition to scheduled annual inspections and reinspections scheduled for the purpose of verifying that deficiencies have been corrected, a trooper or LCR II may conduct an unannounced inspection of any school bus at the location where the bus is kept when not in operation. This subpart shall not be construed to limit the right or duty of any law enforcement officer to inspect any vehicle upon reasonable cause.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*

**7470.0600 SCORING FOR INSPECTIONS.**

Subpart 1. **Point system.** The point system contained in part 7470.0700 shall be used to assess the safety operation of all types of school buses. Each bus will start with 100 points and each defect shall be cause for points to be deducted in accordance with point values established in part 7470.0700.

Subp. 2. **Score of 96 to 100.** Any school bus with an inspection score of 96 to 100 shall be identified by affixing a distinctive school bus inspection certificate to the windshield. Where an inspection score of 96 is achieved, no inspection certificate shall be affixed to the bus at the next annual inspection unless the inadequacies from the previous inspection have been corrected.

Subp. 3. **Score of 80 to 95.** Any school bus with an inspection score of 80 to 95 points shall pass the inspection and receive a temporary bus inspection certificate of contrasting color or design or both. This temporary certificate will be valid for 14 days following inspection and all defects must be corrected. Pending reinspection and certification of the bus by a trooper or LCR II, a bus bearing a temporary certificate may be used to transport pupils beyond the 14-day period if the inspection sheet is signed by the owner or a designee certifying that all of the defects are corrected. The signed inspection sheet shall be carried in the first aid kit in the bus.

Subp. 4. **Score below 80.** Any school bus with less than 80 points shall be deemed unsafe for the transportation of school children. Any school bus which fails the inspection shall not be used to transport school children until the defects are corrected and an inspection certificate is issued and affixed to the bus. Pending reinspection and certification of the bus by a trooper or LCR II, a bus bearing a rejection sticker may be used to transport pupils if the inspection sheet is signed by the owner or a designee certifying that all of the defects are corrected. The signed inspection sheet shall be carried in the first aid kit in the bus.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*

**History:** *17 SR 1279*

**7470.0700 TABLE OF POINTS TO BE DEDUCTED.**

In accordance with part 7470.0600, subparts 1 to 3, defects in the equipment of a school bus listed in the left column will cause the number of points specified in the right column to be deducted from the starting score of 100.

Equipment Defect	Points
Tires, front	each 25
Tires, rear	each 25
Exhaust	
Inadequate pipe	25
Leak in system	5
Muffler defective	5
(treat like leak in system)	
School bus color	
Not basic yellow or orange	25
Improper trim color	2

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Required lettering	
No school bus sign (type I & II)	25
Stop at railway crossing (type III only)	25
Other lettering – nicknames	2
Stop arm (octagonal)	25
Reflective material cracked, scratched, or separated	5
Optional lamps on stop arm	2
Crossover mirror	
Missing or inoperable	25
If only line of vision is distorted, flaking or cracked	5
Headlamps out of adjustment (allow mechanic time to adjust)	5
Headlamp out	5
Both low beams out	25
One low beam out or either or both high beams out	each 5
Dimmer switch inoperable	5
Turn signals inoperable	25
Eight lamp warning lamp system	
Lamp system not working	25
Eight lamp indicator malfunctioning	10
Indicator lamps	
High beam	2
Turn signals	5
Clearance lamps or optional white strobe lamp	each 1
Rear lamps	
One out	5
Both out	25
Stop lamps (minimum of 2 required)	
Not working	each 15
auxiliary stop lamp not working	each 2
Backup lamps	5
Brakes – service (foot)	
Not working	25
Hose blistered but no fluid leakage	each hose 5
Brakes – emergency (auxiliary)	25
Defective or no warning horn	25
Rear view mirror	
Interior	15
Exterior	25
Slight crack, discolored or flaking	5
Windshield wipers (not working at all)	25
Wiper blade only	5
One speed not working on left side or the right side not working	10
Windshield glass	10
Steering	25
One king pin bad (more than 1/2 inch)	15
Two king pins bad (more than 1/2 inch)	25
Driver seat belt, missing or not usable	25
Entrance door, out of adjustment	5
Interior lamps	
Step-well	2
Other interior lamps (mention only)	0

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First aid kit	25
Missing	1
Short supply – per unit missing	15
Fire extinguisher, missing or in inoperable range	5
Flags and flares (electric or reflector) (for up to three missing)	5
Side glass and rear glass – each defect	2
Loose objects interior	each 2
Seats loose (floor mount)	each 5
Seat condition	each 2
Bus interior (cleanliness)	2
Carbon monoxide	25
Emergency exit, inoperable	25
Emergency lettering missing	2
Bad door gasket	5
Speedometer	10
Suspension, main leaf	25
Other than main leaf, 25 percent or more of the remaining leaves broken	25
Other than main leaf, less than 25 percent broken	10
Loose or leaking shocks	10
Wheels	25
One stud nut missing if less than 20 percent of stud nuts on wheel	10
20 percent or more of stud nuts are missing on wheel	25
Body condition	2
Hazardous protuberance or sharp edge	25
Two cross members bad, must be replaced	2
Cross members rusted, to be written up	0
Drive shaft guard	25
Frame	25
Defroster fan or heaters in excess of one in multiple heater buses	each 5
Battery	10
Body mounting	10
Fuel system	10

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 169.451 subd 2*