

TITLE 16

Chapter 53

"Autobus Specifications"

Effective date: 9/26/83

**Approved sections only: 3.23, 3.24, 3.27, 6.15, 6.21, 6.30,
7.14, 7.17, 7.23, 8.15, 8.22, 8.25**

16:53-3.23 Certificate of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.24(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.24(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.24(e).

(d) No autobus shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand-hand windshield.

(e) All autobuses operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

16:53-3.24 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to insure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certification of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The records shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-3.23, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certified for school use. They will be inspected bi-annually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

16:53-3.27 Exhaust Systems

(a) Exhaust systems shall discharge on the street side of the autobus. No part of the exhaust system shall be so located as would likely result in burning, charring or damaging the electrical wiring, the fuel supply or any combustible part of the bus.

(b) The exhaust system of a bus powered by a gasoline engine shall terminate within six inches forward of the rearmost part of the bus.

(c) The exhaust pipe of a diesel-powered vehicle shall:

(1) Discharge gases to the atmosphere at or within 15 inches forward of the rearmost part of the vehicle; or

(2) Discharge gases to the atmosphere to the rear of all doors or windows designed to be opened for ventilation. Windows designed to be opened solely as emergency exits are not considered to be openable for ventilation.

(d) Such system shall be maintained in good working order in conformity with standards promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

16:53-3.28 Drive Shaft

Any drive shaft extending lengthwise under the floor of the passenger compartment of a bus shall be protected by means of at least one guard or bracket at that end of the shaft which is provided with a sliding connection (spline or other such device) to prevent the whipping of the shaft in the event of failure thereof or of any of its component parts. A shaft contained within a torque tube shall not require any such device.

16:53-6.14 Fuel Tanks and Fuel Systems

(a) Fuel tanks and systems shall meet all applicable Federal requirements as set forth in Part 301 of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard.

(b) Fuel tanks and filler pipes shall be located wholly outside of the body, to the rear of the line of the windshield and/or front axle as physical conditions may indicate and be properly insulated to prevent danger of fire.

(c) Fuel tanks shall be so constructed and located in a manner that will permit filling and draining from the outside of the vehicle only.

(d) Filler pipe caps shall fit snugly to prevent fuel leakage.

(e) Fuel and any other combustible materials and compressed gases, except fire extinguishers, shall not be carried or stored in the passenger compartment.

16:53-6.15 Exhaust System

(a) Exhaust systems shall be free of leaks and securely installed and entirely outside of the vehicle body and equipped with an appropriate muffler. Flexible pipe or tubing shall be prohibited in exhaust systems.

(b) Exhaust system shall vent to the rear of the rear wheels.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent emission of unnecessary smoke or vapor. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Standard applicable to type of engine installed.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or otherwise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

6.20 Identification

(a) No autobus shall be operated unless it displays on each side exterior, in clearly visible letters, the exact name of the operator at least three inches in height.

(b) Every autobus shall be assigned an identifying number by utility. This number must be displayed on the exterior front, the front, rear and both sides of the exterior. Interior and exterior numbers shall be at least three inches in height and of a contrasting color from the background.

INTERIOR

(c) Each autobus shall have displayed on the righthand side thereof, number of the Department's Certificate of Compliance in letters and numbers three inches high in the following style: NJDOT 12345. *↓ CHARTER NO.*

16:53-6.21 Certificate of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in 16:53-6.30(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (16:53-1.29(i)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in 16:53-6.30(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in 16:53-6.21(e).

(d) No autohus shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(e) All autobuses operating in the state shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

16:53-6.30 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to ensure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificate of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and correction measures taken. The records shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-6.21, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication records, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection, for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certified for school use. They will be inspected bi-annually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

16:53-6.31 Special Equipment

Special equipment used to transport passengers in wheelchairs must comply with NJAC 16:53-3.7.

16:53-7.14 Exhaust Systems

(a) Exhaust system shall be free of leaks and securely installed and entirely outside of the vehicle body and equipped with an appropriate muffler. Flexible pipe or tubing shall be prohibited in exhaust systems.

(b) Exhaust system shall vent to the rear of the rear wheels.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent emission of unnecessary smoke or vapor. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Standard applicable to type of engine installed.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or other wise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

16:53-7.15 Windshield Wipers

(a) Vehicle shall be equipped with at least two windshield wipers sufficient in size and power and maintained so as to provide the driver with a clear forward vision. Windshield wipers shall be located on each side of the windshield center line.

(b) Windshield wipers shall be of variable speed and electrically operated.

16:53-7.16 Steps

(a) The first step at the entrance area shall not be less than 10 inches nor more than 16 inches from the ground when the vehicle is unloaded.

(b) Surface of all steps shall be of a skid-resistant material.

(c) Steps shall not extend beyond body limits to a degree which could possibly result in bodily injury or property damage.

16:53-7.17 Certification of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-7.23(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirement (16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in 16:53-7.23(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required Certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in 16:53-7.23(e).

(d) No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department, visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(e) All vehicles operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certificate of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

16:53-7.22 Grounding Device

Each vehicle, unless otherwise designed to eliminate static electric charge buildup, shall be equipped with a suitable grounding device.

16:53-7.23 Maintenance

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to insure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The record shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-7.17, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection, for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certified for school use. They will be inspected biannually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive a certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

16:53-8.15 Exhaust System

(a) Exhaust system shall vent to the rear of the rear wheels.

(b) All parts of the exhaust system shall be securely installed entirely outside of the body. No flexible pipe or tubing will be permitted in exhaust system.

(c) The engine shall be maintained in good operating condition so as to prevent discharge of unnecessary fumes or gases. Vehicles shall meet the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Standard, applicable to type of engine installed.

(d) No portion of the exhaust system shall be located in a manner which could result in the burning or otherwise damaging electric wiring, fuel system components, or any combustible part of the vehicle.

(e) Engine covers shall be properly sealed and shall not permit any engine compartment vapors to enter the passenger compartment.

16:53-8.16 Drive Shaft

Any drive shaft extending lengthwise under the floor of the passenger compartment of a limousine, except limousines having a seating capacity of five or less passengers, shall be protected by means of at least one guard or bracket at that end of the shaft which is provided with a sliding connection (spline or other such device) to prevent the whipping of the shaft in the event of failure thereof or of any of its component parts. A shaft contained within a torque tube shall not require any such device.

16:53-8.21 Identification

(a) Sedan-type vehicles will be identified by PUC-LIM license plates furnished by the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles after approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

(b) Limousine operators, at their discretion, may further identify themselves in the following manner:

The exact name of the operator on each side of its exterior in clearly visible letters.

(c) No vehicle shall be operated unless it displays under the hood on the right front wheel well, an identifying number and the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Certificate of Compliance number in the following style: NJDOT L123.

16:53-8.22 Certificate of Inspection

(a) An authorized New Jersey Transit Corporation official or his representative shall affix a Certificate of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle at the completion of each six month certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.25(c).

(b) An authorized company official or his representative shall affix a Certification of Inspection (inspection sticker) to the vehicle once yearly in accordance with the self-inspection requirements (N.J.A.C. 16:53-1.29(j)) at the completion of the certification inspection as outlined in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.25(c).

(c) No Certificate of Inspection shall be issued without certification by the person authorized to inspect the vehicle that the vehicle was inspected, is in proper and safe condition and complies with all requirements of this Department. The required certification shall be made on the maintenance inspection report as set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.25(e).

(d) No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays on the lower right-hand corner of the windshield, visible from the exterior, an unexpired Certification of Inspection issued by the Department.

(e) All vehicles operating in the State shall be subject to road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.

(f) Any person who issues a Certification of Inspection or submits a certification to this Department without the required inspection and repair having been performed, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:4-2.1(a).

16:53-8.25 Maintenance and inspection

(a) The body, chassis, engine and all equipment shall be maintained in proper adjustment and safe operating condition.

(b) All equipment shall receive a specification inspection by Department personnel in order to ensure compliance with all of the Department's specifications. All vehicles which meet Department specifications will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.

(c) All vehicles for which Certificate of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall receive a certification inspection at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent certification inspection of such vehicles by Department personnel when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(d) A systematic maintenance record shall be kept for each vehicle showing the vehicle identification, driver, date of breakdowns, defects reported and corrective measures taken. The records shall be retained by the utility for at least 12 months and shall be available for review by the Department.

(e) Each motor vehicle shall receive a complete inspection at regular time and/or mileage intervals for mechanical or structural defects. All necessary repairs shall be completed and a Certificate of Compliance affixed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:53-8.22, before the motor vehicle is returned to service. An itemized record of each inspection showing the date, vehicle identification, lubrication record, repairs and adjustments and signed by the person making such inspection, shall be available at the inspection site, at the time of inspection, for at least 12 months and available for review by the Department. A record of each sixth month certification inspection is to be submitted to the Department on a prescribed form within five days of the inspection.

(f) The maintenance facilities shall be adequate to assure compliance with specifications herein and shall include either a suitable pit or lift or an arrangement for the use of such facilities.

(g) The entire vehicle shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(h) The self-inspection certification does not apply to vehicles certified for school use. They will be inspected biannually by Department personnel.

(i) All vehicles directly operated by the New Jersey Transit Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries, will be on a six month self-inspection certification program. All other vehicles shall receive certification inspection at six month intervals; once by Department personnel during the first six months and self-inspected at the completion of the second six month period.

16:53-8.26 Inspection and Certificate of Inspection

(a) All vehicles for which Certificates of Compliance have been issued by the Department shall be inspected at least twice annually. Nothing herein contained shall limit the Department's authority to require more frequent inspection of such autobuses when, in its opinion, the safety of the public so requires.

(b) No vehicle shall be operated unless it prominently displays an unexpired Certificate of Inspection issued by the Department visible from the exterior, on the lower right corner of the right-hand windshield.

(c) On vehicles where the chassis has been altered, they shall be subject to quarterly inspection.

(d) All vehicles operating in the state shall be subject to periodic road and terminal checks. These shall be conducted at the Department's option as to location and frequency.