ITEM AND METHOD OF INSPECTION

Handicapped or special mobility vehicles  

(25) Vehicles constructed for transporting children with mobility problems shall meet all federal and Minnesota school bus construction requirements.

1. Alterations  

1. Alteration of the interior of the vehicle is permissible if all seats and barriers, component parts, anchorages, wheelchair securement devices and placement of seats and barriers and wheelchair securement devices comply with federal requirements as of the date of manufacture. All equipment must be supplied by the original manufacturer and installed as per the original manufacturer's specification. Alteration which would return the vehicle to conventional passenger seating (removal of all wheelchair securement devices) must include removal of the power lift and rendering the special service door inoperable.

2. School buses manufactured after 7/1/89.

2. Any school bus manufactured after 7/1/89 specifically or partially for the transportation of these children shall be equipped with a power lift located on the right side of the bus body, unless a ramp is needed for unusual circumstances related to passenger needs.

3. Seating capacity  

Bus manufactured before 1/1/95.

3. The actual rated seating capacity, following the modification of a vehicle shall be placed above the windshield on the interior of the body.

4. Special Service  

a. Opening

4. a. There shall be an enclosed service opening located on the right side of the body.
ITEM AND METHOD OF INSPECTION

b. Opening Strength  b. Door post, headers, and all floor sections around this special opening must be reinforced to provide strength and support equivalent to adjacent side wall and floor construction of an unaltered model.

c. Drip Mold  c. A drip mold must be installed above the opening so as to effectively channel the water away from the entrance.

d. Header Pad  d. A header pad, at least three inches wide and one inch thick, extending the width of special door, must be placed above the opening on the inside of the bus or on the lift if it has a top cross bar.

e. Number of Doors  e. The lift may be enclosed by either one or two doors. All doors must open outwardly.

f. Two Panel Door  f. If the door is made of two panels, the following standards must apply:

1) The forward panel must be provided with an overlapping flange to close the space where door panels meet, and weather seal must be provided around the doors or opening to eliminate water leakage or heat loss.
ITEM AND METHOD OF INSPECTION

2) Safety Glass

2) Each door must have a safety glass window, set in rubber, and aligned with the lower line of the adjacent sash, and as nearly as practical of the same size as other windows.

3) Open Door Securement

3) Each door panel must open outwardly and a positive fastening device must be installed to hold the doors in an open position.

g. One piece construction

g. If the door is made of one piece construction, the following standards must apply:

1) Open door securement

1) The door must open outwardly and a positive fastening device must be installed to hold the door securely in an open position.

2) Locking Device

2) The door must be equipped with a slide-bar, cam-operated type locking device.

3) Weather stripping

3) Weather stripping must be installed around the entire door or opening to eliminate water leakage or heat loss.

4) Safety glass

4) The door must have a safety glass window, set in rubber and aligned with the lower line of the adjacent sash, and as nearly as practical, of the same size as other bus windows.

h. Door Location

h. The door shall be located far enough to the rear to permit the door (forward panel on two piece door or forward hinged one piece door) from obstructing right front service door.
SPECIAL MOBILITY BUSES

ITEM AND METHOD OF INSPECTION

i. Doors

NOTE: The flashing device may be hooked into the emergency brake in such a manner as not to flash if the emergency brake is securely in the braking position on buses before 1/1/95.

Audible signal not permitted on buses before 1/1/95.

i. The doors must be equipped with a device(s) that will actuate an audible or flashing visible signal, located in driver's compartment, when doors are not securely closed.

All doors must be constructed to be equivalent in strength and materials to other school bus doors.

The power lift must be of at least 750 pound capacity rating and capable of lifting the wheelchair, occupant, and attendant on buses before 1/1/95.

5. Power Lift Controls

All lift controls must be portable and conveniently located on the inside of the bus lift door.

6. Power Lift Platform

The power lift platform must be covered with a skid-resistant material or be so designed so as to prevent slipping. The lift platform must be of such construction that would permit vision through that portion of the platform covering the window of the special service door when the platform is in the "up" position. The power lift must be designed so that the lift will not operate unless the special service door(s) is opened.
7. Ramp

7. A self-adjusting steel or equivalent ramp, if needed, must be attached to the lift platform and be of sufficient strength to minimize the incline of the platform. The ramp must be equipped with a skid-resistant surface. The ramp must be in a secured position while the bus is in motion. The ramp must be wide enough on the surface to accommodate a standard wheelchair. Ramp shall be of weight and design to permit one person to operate ramp.

8. Barriers

8. A padded crash barrier meeting federal manufacturing requirements for school bus seats and crash barriers must be properly installed between the special service door and the seats to the rear of the special service door and shall be of sufficient width to protect the passengers situated to the rear of the barrier. In vehicles of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating or less, padded stanchions are acceptable.

In the event that an elevator-type (body floor section serving as lift platform) lift is used, both forward and rear side of platform must be protected by heavy-duty padded barriers extending from the wall of the body toward the aisle. A covered chain must be fastened to the rear barrier adjacent to the lift platform, extend across the platform opening and attach with hook and eye to the forward barrier adjacent to the lift platform.

9. Wheel Chair

9. All such devices must be as provided by Minnesota Statutes, Section 299 A.11.
10. Special Student Restraining Devices

10. Shoulder harness, lap belts, and chest restraint systems may be installed providing that such devices do not require alteration, in any form, in the seat, seat cushion, framework or related seat components. Such restraints must be for the sole purpose of restraining handicapped students.

11. Seats

11. All seats and related components shall comply with applicable federal standards on date of manufacture. Seat frames may be equipped by the school bus body manufacturer with rings or other devices to which passenger restraint systems may be attached providing seat anchorages will handle the increased load demands which may occur.

Items 1 thru 11 are applicable to all buses used to transport handicapped or are special mobility vehicles. Items 12 thru 17 are specific to buses manufactured after 12/31/94.

12. Aisles

12. School buses equipped with power lift shall provide a 12" aisle to at least one emergency door and lift arm.

13. Communications

13. All "vehicles" used to transport disabled students shall have 2-way communications.

14. Glazing

14. Tinted glazing approved that is consistent with state law.

15. Identification

15. Buses with power lifts shall display universal handicapped symbols located below window line.

16. Power Lift

16. a. Shall be capable to lift a minimum weight of 800 pounds. Lift platform shall have a minimum of 30" clear usable width, unobstructed by required hand rail. The minimum clear length of the platform between the outer edge barrier and inner edge shall be 40".
ITEM AND METHOD OF INSPECTION

b. Controls shall be provided to allow operator to operate lift from inside or outside of bus. Lift shall be designed to prevent falling due to power failure or single component mechanical failure. Lift shall be designed with a manual backup in event of power failure.

c. Platform edge and sides shall be designed to restrain wheelchairs or other mobile devices from slipping or rolling off. Outer edge barrier shall be automatically or manually lowered when platform is a ground level but not above ground level.

d. Shall be equipped with at least one handrail. Handrail shall be approximately 25-34" in height and a minimum of 18" in length and designed to fold when in slowed position.

e. Lift design shall prevent excessive pressure that could damage the lift system when platform is fully raised or lowered, or that could jack the vehicle. Lift travel shall allow the platform to rest securely on the ground.

17. Special Light  17. Lights shall be placed inside the bus to sufficiently illuminate the lift door area.