



San Diego Unified

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transportation Department Safety & Training

Unit 6: Advanced Defensive Driving Techniques – Law

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34501.6 VC VISIBILITY RESTRICTIONS

The governing board of a local educational agency that provides for the transportation of pupils shall adopt procedures that limit the operation of school buses when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during regular home-to-school transportation service. Operational policies for school activity trips shall give school bus drivers' discretionary authority to discontinue school bus operation if the driver determines that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility.

25257.7 VC SCHOOL BUSES: ADDITIONAL LIGHTS

(a) A school bus may be equipped with a white strobe light mounted so as to be visible from the front, sides, or rear of the bus. The strobe light may only be lighted when visibility is reduced to 500 feet or less due to atmospheric conditions including, but not limited to, fog, rain, snow, smoke, or dust. Reduced visibility due to atmospheric conditions does not include the time of darkness from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

(b) The type and mounting requirements of strobe lights authorized by subdivision (a) shall be established by regulations adopted by the department by April 1, 1991. No school bus shall be equipped with a strobe light until the regulations are adopted.

13 CCR § 695.5 SCHOOL BUS STROBE LAMPS

School bus strobe lamps shall be installed as follows:

(a) Location. The lamp shall be installed on the rooftop at or behind the center of the roof and equidistant from each side.

(b) Height. The top of the light-generating element inside the lamp shall not extend above the rooftop more than 1/20th of its horizontal distance from the rear of the bus. For the purpose of this section, the rear of the bus is defined as the vertical plane in contact with the rear most portion of the body. If a bus is equipped with roof mounted school bus signs or other vertical obstructions, the light-generating element may extend above the level of the signs or obstructions not to exceed 1/20th of its distance from the rear of the bus. In no case shall strobe lamps be mounted so as to exceed the maximum height limits specified in Vehicle Code Section 35250.

(c) Mounting. The vertical axis of the lamp shall be installed perpendicular to the surface of the road.

(d) Switch and Pilot Indicator. The lamp shall be activated by a manual switch labeled with the word "strobeltamp," "strobe lamp," "strobe light," "strobe," or some other readily understood term which clearly and unambiguously identified the strobe light function and distinguishes it from other warning lamps and devices with which the vehicle is equipped, and independent of all other switches. In addition, the system shall have a non-glaring amber or white pilot indicator that is clearly visible to the driver and that is lighted whenever the strobe lamp is lighted.

25102.5 VC LAMPS ON SIDES OF SCHOOL BUSES

- (a) A schoolbus may be equipped with lamps mounted so as to be visible from the sides of the bus which may be lighted, in addition to other required lights, when, and only when, atmospheric conditions such as fog, rain, snow, smoke, or dust, reduce the visibility of other vehicles to less than 500 feet.
- (b) The type and mounting requirements of such lamps shall be established by regulations adopted by the department. The regulations shall be adopted by January 1, 1980.

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.

23120 VC TEMPLE WIDTH OF GLASSES

No person shall operate a motor vehicle while wearing glasses having a temple width of one-half inch or more if any part of such temple extends below the horizontal center of the lens so as to interfere with lateral vision.

280 VC DARKNESS

Darkness is anytime from one half hour before sunrise and one half hour after sunset and any other time when visibility is not sufficient to render clearly discernable any person or vehicle on the highway at a distance of 1000 feet

24400 VC HEADLAMPS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- (a) A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with at least two headlamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the vehicle, and, except as to vehicles registered prior to January 1, 1930, they shall be located directly above or in advance of the front axle of the vehicle. The headlamps and every light source in any headlamp unit shall be located at a height of not more than 54 inches nor less than 22 inches.
- (b) A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be operated during darkness, or inclement weather, or both, with at least two lighted headlamps that comply with subdivision (a).
- (c) As used in subdivision (b), "inclement weather" is a weather condition that is either of the following:
- (1) A condition that prevents a driver of a motor vehicle from clearly discerning a person or another motor vehicle on the highway from a distance of 1,000 feet.
 - (2) A condition requiring the windshield wipers to be in continuous use due to rain, mist, snow, fog, or other precipitation or atmospheric moisture

24407 VC UPPER AND LOWER BEAMS

Multiple-beam road lighting equipment shall be designed and aimed as follows:

- (a) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead for all conditions of loading.
- (b) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light or composite beam so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or vehicle at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead. On a straight, level road under any condition of loading none of the high intensity portion of the beam shall be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver.

13 CCR § 1225 HEADLAMPS

The driver shall ensure the headlamps are lighted while the bus is in motion.

24409 VC USE OF MULTIPLE BEAMS

Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated during darkness, the driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- (a) Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, he shall use a distribution of light or composite beam so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver. The lowermost distribution of light specified in this article shall be deemed to avoid glare at all times regardless of road contour.
- (b) Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 300 feet to the rear, he shall use the lowermost distribution of light specified in this article.

13 CCR § 1263 INTERIOR LAMPS

All buses operated during darkness shall be equipped with a sufficient number of interior lamps to illuminate the interior of the bus without interfering with the drivers' vision.

27459 VC TIRE TRACTION DEVICES

No person shall operate any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer upon any portion of a highway without tire traction devices when that portion of the highway is signed for the requirement of tire traction devices. In any case where a passenger vehicle or motor truck having an unladen weight of 6,000 pounds or less may be required by the department of transportation or local Authorities to be equipped with tire traction devices, the devices shall be placed on at least two drive wheels, or the department or local authorities may provide, in the alternative, that the vehicle May be equipped with snow-tread tires on at least two drive wheels when the weather and surface conditions at the time are such that the Stopping, tractive, and cornering abilities of the snow-tread tires are adequate. The snow-tread tires shall be of a type and design manufactured for use on snow as a replacement for tire chains or tire traction devices,

shall be in good condition, and shall bear the Marking of m-s, m/s, or other marking indicating that the tire was manufactured for use on snow, or, in the case of tires purchased before January 1, 1987, shall either bear the markings or, in the opinion of the inspecting officer, comply with the tread pattern requirements of section 558.

558 VC SNOW-TREAD TIRE

A “snow-tread tire” is a tire which has a relatively deep and aggressive tread pattern compared with conventional passenger tread pattern.

27465(B) (3) VC TREAD DEPTH OF PNEUMATIC TIRES

(b) No person shall use on a highway a pneumatic tire on a vehicle axle when the tire has less than the following tread depth, except when temporarily installed on a disabled vehicle as specified in subdivision

(a):

(3) Six thirty-second ($\frac{6}{32}$) of an inch tread depth at all points in all major grooves on snow tires used in lieu of tire traction devices in posted tire traction device control areas.

22363 VC RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE OF SNOW OR ICE CONDITIONS

Notwithstanding any speed limit that may be in effect upon the highway, the Department of Transportation in respect to state highways, or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may determine and declare a prima facie speed limit of 40, 35, 30, or 25 miles per hour, whichever is found most appropriate and is reasonable and safe based on the prevailing snow or ice conditions upon such highway or any portion thereof. Signs may be placed and removed as snow or ice conditions vary.

22352 VC PRIMA FACIE SPEED LAWS

DEFINITION: PRIMA FACIE - at first view: on the first appearance. Example: School zone is maximum 25 MPH even if no signs are posted.

The prima facie limits are as follows and shall be applicable unless changed as authorized in this code and, if so changed, only when signs have been erected giving notice thereof:

(a) Fifteen miles per hour:

(1) When traversing a railway grade crossing, if during the last 100 feet of the approach to the crossing the driver does not have a clear and unobstructed view of the crossing and of any traffic on the railway for a distance of 400 feet in both directions along the railway. This subdivision does not apply in the case of any railway grade crossing where a human flagman is on duty or a clearly visible electrical or mechanical railway crossing signal device is installed but does not then indicate the immediate approach of a railway train or car.

(2) When traversing any intersection of highways if during the last 100 feet of the driver’s approach to the intersection the driver does not have a clear and unobstructed view of the intersection and of any traffic upon all of the highways entering the intersection for a distance of

100 feet along all those highways, except at an intersection protected by stop signs or yield right-of-way signs or controlled by official traffic control signals.

(3) On any alley.

(b) Twenty-five miles per hour:

(1) On any highway other than a state highway, in any business or residence district unless a different speed is determined by local authority under procedures set forth in this code.

(2) When approaching or passing a school building or the grounds thereof, contiguous to a highway and posted with a standard "SCHOOL" warning sign, while children are going to or leaving the school either during school hours or during the noon recess period. The prima facie limit shall also apply when approaching or passing any school grounds which are not separated from the highway by a fence, gate, or other physical barrier while the grounds are in use by children and the highway is posted with a standard "SCHOOL" warning sign. For purposes of this subparagraph, standard "SCHOOL" warning signs may be placed at any distance up to 500 feet away from school grounds.

(3) When passing a senior center or other facility primarily used by senior citizens, contiguous to a street other than a state highway and posted with a standard "SENIOR" warning sign. A local authority may erect a sign pursuant to this paragraph when the local agency makes a determination that the proposed signing should be implemented. A local authority may request grant funding from the Active Transportation Program pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 2380) of Division 3 of the Streets and Highways Code, or any other grant funding available to it, and use that grant funding to pay for the erection of those signs, or may utilize any other funds available to it to pay for the erection of those signs, including, but not limited to, donations from private sources.

22107 VC TURNING MOVEMENTS AND REQUIRED SIGNALS

No person shall turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway until such movement can be made with reasonable safety and then only after the giving of an appropriate signal in the manner provided in this chapter in the event any other vehicle may be affected by the movement.

22108 VC DURATION OF SIGNAL

Any signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning.

22109 VC SIGNAL WHEN STOPPING

No person shall stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle on a highway without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided in this chapter to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear when there is opportunity to give the signal.

13 CCR § 1215 VEHICLE CONDITION

(a) General. It shall be unlawful for the driver to drive a vehicle that is not in safe operating condition or is not equipped as required by all provisions of law and this chapter.

(b) Daily Inspection. Pursuant to Sections 1202.1 and 1202.2, all drivers shall perform vehicle inspections and submit written reports in accordance with the requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 396.11 and 396.13, as follows:

(1) Before driving a motor vehicle, the driver shall:

(A) Inspect each vehicle daily to ascertain that it is in safe operating condition and equipped as required by all provisions of law, and all equipment is in good working order;

(B) Review the last vehicle inspection report;

(C) Sign the report, only if defects or deficiencies were noted by the driver who prepared the report, to acknowledge that the driver has reviewed it and that there is a certification pursuant to subsection (f) that the required repairs have been performed. The signature requirement does not apply to listed defects on a towed unit which is no longer part of the vehicle combination.

(2) Subsections (B) and (C) do not apply to school bus drivers or publicly owned and operated transit system drivers.

(c) Daily Report. Every motor carrier shall require its drivers to report, and every driver shall prepare a report in writing at the completion of each day's work on each vehicle operated. School bus drivers' reports shall cover at least the items listed in subdivision (d), and all other drivers' reports, shall cover at least the following parts and accessories:

- (1) Service brakes including trailer brake connections
- (2) Parking (hand) brake
- (3) Steering mechanism
- (4) Lighting devices and reflectors
- (5) Tires
- (6) Horn
- (7) Windshield wipers
- (8) Rear vision mirrors
- (9) Coupling devices
- (10) Wheels and rims
- (11) Emergency equipment

(d) School bus drivers. For school bus drivers, the inspection shall include, but is not limited to:

- (1) All gauges, indicators, and warning devices
- (2) Horns
- (3) Driver's seat and seat belts
- (4) All doors, door emergency releases, and windows
- (5) All seats, handrails, and modesty panels

- (6) Interior and exterior lighting systems
- (7) All heating, cooling, and ventilating systems
- (8) All glass and mirrors, including adjustment of mirrors
- (9) Windshield wipers and washers
- (10) All required emergency equipment
- (11) All tires, wheels, and lug nuts
- (12) Brake system
 - (A) Air compressor governor cut in and cut out pressures
 - (B) Static pressure for air loss
 - (C) Applied brake pressure loss
 - (D) Low air pressure warning devices
 - (E) Emergency stopping systems (draining reservoirs in dual air systems is not required)
 - (F) Parking brake
 - (G) Antiskid device (if equipped)
 - (H) Vacuum gauge, ensuring it reads not less than 15 inches
 - (I) Low vacuum warning devices
 - (J) Brake pedal for brake adjustment

(e) Report Content. The report shall identify the motor vehicle and all towed vehicles and list any defect or deficiency discovered by or reported to the driver which would affect safety of operation of the motor vehicle or combination or result in its mechanical breakdown. If no defect or deficiency is discovered by or reported to the driver, the report(s) shall so indicate. In all instances, the driver shall sign the vehicle inspection report. On two-driver operations, only one driver needs to sign the report, provided both drivers agree as to the defects or deficiencies. If a driver operates more than one vehicle during the day, a report shall be prepared for each vehicle operated.

(f) Corrective Action. Prior to operating a motor vehicle, motor carriers or their authorized agent(s) shall effect repair of any item listed on the motor vehicle inspection report(s) that would be likely to affect the safety of operation of the motor vehicle or any towed vehicles.

(1) Motor carriers or their authorized agents shall certify on the report(s) which lists any defects or deficiencies, that the defects or deficiencies have been corrected or that correction is unnecessary before the vehicle is again dispatched.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to school bus or publicly owned and operated transit system motor carriers.

(g) Repairs. Unless the driver of a school bus or SPAB is the mechanic charged with the care and maintenance of the bus, the driver shall not make any repairs of the bus or its equipment except necessary emergency repairs on the road.

(h) Exception. Subsection (c) shall not apply to a motor carrier operating only one motor vehicle, provided the motor vehicle is a motor truck or truck tractor, and the motor carrier is the owner and sole driver of the motor vehicle. A motor carrier, otherwise excepted from the reporting requirement by this subdivision, who tows trailer(s) not owned by or leased to that motor carrier, shall submit documented

daily report(s) for the trailers as required by subsection (b). Such reports shall be submitted to the person(s) from whom the trailers were obtained.

(i) Private motor carriers of passengers. The exemption provided to private motor carriers of passengers in 49 CFR Section 396.11(d), shall not apply to intrastate private motor carriers of passengers operating any bus, as defined in Vehicle Code Section 233.

49 CFR § 571.121 S5.7.2 EMERGENCY BRAKE SYSTEM OPERATION - The emergency brake system shall be applied and released, and be capable of modulation, by means of the service brake control.

491 PC NATURE AND VALUE OF DOGS

Dogs are personal property, and their value is to be ascertained in the same manner as the value of other property.

Unit 6 Quiz

1. Professional bus drivers never drive beyond the limits of the vehicle headlights during darkness.
T ___ F ___
2. Professional drivers can drive safely on slippery surfaces by reducing speed and adjusting their skills to meet these conditions.
T ___ F ___
3. Wind is not a hazard for buses.
T ___ F ___
4. A bus can stop in the same distance on wet pavement as on dry pavement.
T ___ F ___
5. Speed causes a decrease in traction.
T ___ F ___
6. Black ice is identified as frost or snow.
T ___ F ___
7. By law, you must have two headlights that are bright enough to let you see 100 feet ahead on low and 350 feet ahead on high beam.
T ___ F ___
8. There is no law or regulation governing interior lighting.
T ___ F ___
9. To control a skid to the right, the driver must turn the steering wheel to the left.
T ___ F ___
10. A driver who encounters someone with road rage should contact authorities?
T ___ F ___
11. Light conditions can contribute to a collision or reduce visibility?
T ___ F ___
12. Driving at twilight is more dangerous than driving during daylight hours?
T ___ F ___
13. To avoid getting stuck in the mud or soft sand, the driver must keep the vehicle moving slowly and steadily forward?
T ___ F ___
14. The first rain after an extended dry period is usually not the most dangerous?
T ___ F ___
15. By law, if visibility is less than 150 feet due to atmospheric conditions, the driver shall continue on their route?
T ___ F ___