

Checklist Against Fire for Buses/Coaches

In order to prevent fire on vehicles, the IRU has worked out a checklist of recommended periodical inspections to be integrated in the maintenance performance activities of the transport operations.

Vehicle maintenance on a regular basis can ensure early identification of vehicle problems and defects likely to cause a fire.

Driver duties

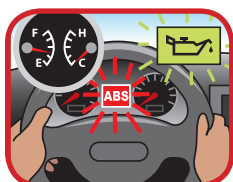
Before starting a journey



The driver imperatively checks:

- ✓ The tyres' pressure (visual check on a daily basis, test tyres on a weekly basis). In particular dual tyres should not be kissing each other.
- ✓ No liquids are leaking underneath the vehicle (visual check). Ensure that no oil exits from the muffler and that you see no excessive blue smoke (turbocharger oil consumption).
- ✓ The proper functioning of the preheating systems (engine and interior).
- ✓ The exhaust system components are free from debris.

When operating a vehicle



The driver needs imperatively to:

- ✓ Check the coolant temperature gauge.
- ✓ Check fire detection system signal (vehicles must be equipped).
- ✓ Check smoke or heat detection systems for interior compartment (vehicles must be equipped).
- ✓ Check regularly the tyres' pressure monitoring system (if vehicle equipped).
- ✓ Avoid any overheating. Stop the vehicle if the engine, brakes or retarder become overheated/or when sensing unusual odors or smoke, or if noticing smoke visually.
- ✓ Park in a safe area.

- ✓ Avoid overloading because it increases all temperatures!
- ✓ Record in the daily operation report malfunction(s) with mileages and time.
- ✓ Check all warning lights.
- ✓ Check the proper functioning of the retarder (hydraulic or electric).

After completing a journey



The driver needs imperatively to:

- ✓ Inform the technician/next driver of a malfunction.
- ✓ Hand over to the technician or fleet manager the daily operation report (copy).
- ✓ On a daily basis, make a visual check of the engine compartment and surrounding equipments of the vehicle and inform the technician of any problem.
- ✓ On a daily basis, ensure waste and litter is removed from the vehicle.
- ✓ Make sure all external heat sources, e.g. cooking and/or heating equipment is switched off.

When returning a bus/coach



- ✓ Park the vehicle with the main battery switched off (if applicable). This will disconnect the batteries from the alternator, eliminating a risk of fire due to an internal electrical failure.

Vehicle maintenance staff's duties



The technician in charge of vehicle maintenance needs to imperatively check on a regular basis that:

- ✓ All driver's defect reports are correctly actioned, remedial action recorded and filed.
- ✓ The fire detection systems in the engine compartment are connected.
- ✓ The smoke detection systems in the toilets and the driver sleeping compartment are properly connected.

- ✓ The B+ (direct battery feed) cable of the alternator and the B+ cable of the starter are properly connected.
- ✓ There are no loose wires and the cables avoid unwanted contact with the ground.
- ✓ None of the liquids, fuel, power steering fluid, engine oil and hub/gear oil can come in contact with a hot surface.
- ✓ No oil is leaking from the waste gate pivot of the turbocharger.
- ✓ Sensors are not a source of leaking.
- ✓ The levels of coolant and oils are fine (check on a weekly basis).

Vehicle maintenance staff's duties



- ✓ There is no fuel or oil inside the engine compartment on isolation materials.
- ✓ The fuel lines are not leaking.
- ✓ The retarder (gas exhaust, hydraulic or electric) is functioning properly. All environment equipments are without any defects (broken valves, lines, no leaking of fluids).
- ✓ The exhaust system is airtight/isolated.
- ✓ The preheating systems are running correctly (engine and interior).
- ✓ The level of grease in the wheel hubs is sufficient.
- ✓ The status of brakes is in order.
- ✓ The extinguishers are still present in the vehicle and in proper function.
- ✓ The emergency exits function properly.

Actions to be taken in the event of a fire or emergency



- ✓ (Try to) park the vehicle in a safe area.



- ✓ Apply the parking brake.



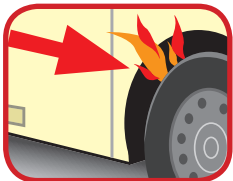
- ✓ Inform the crew to take a safe distance from the vehicle.



- ✓ Open doors in order to let passengers get out fast.



- ✓ Stop the engine. Isolate the battery by activating the master switch where available. Switch off the air-conditioning/heating.



- ✓ Identify the source of the fire.



- ✓ Inform the appropriate emergency services, giving as much information about the incident or accident and passengers involved as possible.



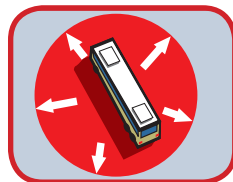
- ✓ Where appropriate and safe to do so, use the fire extinguishers to put out small initial fires. **DO NOT OPEN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENTS IF FIRE OCCURS.**



- ✓ Put on warning vest and place the self-standing warning signs as appropriate. Secure the incident area.



- ✓ Make sure the crew is at a safe distance from the vehicle.



- ✓ Move away from the vicinity of the accident or emergency, advise other persons to move away and follow the advice of the emergency services.



- ✓ Report to company management about the incident.

This checklist is provided to you by the **IRU Academy**, the training arm of the **International Road Transport Union (IRU)**. See our training programmes on www.iru.org/academy