

# 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



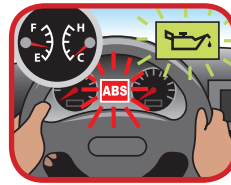
### 1/ BEFORE STARTING A JOURNEY, the driver imperatively checks:

- 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 on pavement (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.



### 3/ AFTER COMPLETING A JOURNEY, the driver needs imperatively to:

- Inform the technician / next driver of a dysfunction.
- Hand over to the technician or fleet manager the daily operation report (copy).
- Make a visual check of the engine compartment and surrounding equipments of the vehicle and inform the technician of any problem.
- Empty ashtrays from cigarettes.



### 2/ WHEN OPERATING A VEHICLE, the driver needs imperatively to:

- Check the coolant temperature gauge.
- Check the tyres' pressure monitoring (if vehicle equipped).
- Avoid any overheating.
  - ⇒ Stop the vehicle if the engine, brakes or retarder become overheated / or when sensing unusual odours or smoke, or if noticing smoke visually.
- Park in a safe and clean area.
- Avoid overloading because it increases all temperatures!
- Record in the daily operation report malfunction(s) with mileages and time.
- Check the ABS warning light.
- Check the proper functioning of the retarder (hydraulic or electric).



### 4/ WHEN RETURNING A 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's maintenance needs imperatively to check on a regular basis that:

- 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.
  - ⇒ It is vital that any leak be immediately repaired to minimise high temperature contact and subsequent fire. All hoses, housings, couplings, fittings and filters must be inspected diligently. Clean the engine, transmission and interior surfaces of the engine compartment, so that they are dry of inflammable fluids.
- No oil is leaking from the waste gate pivot of the turbocharger.
  - ⇒ Turbochargers are very hot on the surface and if they have an internal failure they can become an ignition source.
- Sensors are not a source of leaking.
  - ⇒ Pressurised fluids may enter these sensors and become a source for a combustible material.
- The levels of coolant and oils are fine (check on a weekly basis).
- There is no fuel or oil inside the engine compartment on isolation materials.

## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STAFF'S DUTIES



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

- The fuel lines are not leaking.
- The preheating systems are running correctly (engine and interior).
- 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 level of grease in the wheel hubs is sufficient.
  - ↔ This will prevent their operating temperature from being too elevate.
- The status of disk brakes and calipers fixations is in order.
- The extinguisher(s) is (are) still present in the vehicle and in proper function.

## ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE / AN ACCIDENT / OR EMERGENCY



1/ (Try to) park the vehicle in a safe area.



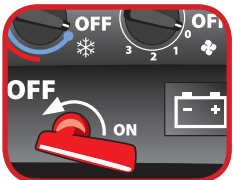
2/ Apply the parking brake.



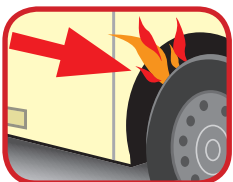
3/ Inform passengers to take a safe distance from the vehicle.



4/ Open doors in order to let passengers get out fast.



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



6/ Identify the source of the fire.



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



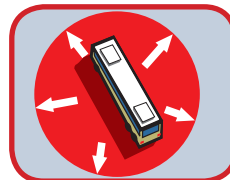
8/ Where appropriate and safe to do so, use the fire extinguishers to put out fires / **DO NOT OPEN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENTS IF FIRE OCCURS.**



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



10/ Make sure that passengers are at a safe distance from vehicle.



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



12/ Report to company management about the incident.