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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Transportation Directors and Service Managers  
**FROM:** Robert Manspeaker, Director of School Transportation  
**DATE:** July 21, 2020

Digitally signed by Robert  
Manspeaker  
Date: 2020.07.21  
13:41:31 -0400

**SUBJECT: Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Certification for Driver Enclosures**

Several school districts have expressed interest in school bus driver enclosures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although driver enclosures may be installed on transit buses and school buses, school buses are subject to different and additional Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and must be evaluated based on those standards. School districts are prohibited from installing shields or enclosures that have not been certified as compliant with FMVSS.

In addition to compliance related solely to the shield or enclosure, manufacturers must conduct testing to ensure that the installation of such equipment will not adversely affect compliance with any FMVSS applicable to school buses.

Page 1 of the [Florida School Bus Specifications, Effective January 2020](#), states:

All public school buses (bodies and chassis) owned, operated, rented, leased and contracted for by any public school board or charter school in Florida, used to transport children to and from school or school-related events, and purchased after the effective date of this document, as specified in rule 6A-3.003, F.A.C., must:

1. Meet or exceed the minimum requirements of these specifications;
2. Meet all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS); and
3. Meet or exceed the 2015 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures (also referred to herein as the 2015 National Specifications), except when in conflict with the requirements herein. In such cases, the requirements specified in this document shall prevail.

Further regulatory requirements are provided in [Title 49, U.S.C. Transportation § 30122](#) (1994), which states that “A manufacturer, distributor, dealer, rental company, or motor vehicle repair

Suzanne Pridgeon  
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Certification for Driver Enclosures

July 21, 2020

Page Two

business may not knowingly make inoperative any part of a device or element of design installed on or in a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in compliance with an applicable motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter unless the manufacturer, distributor, dealer, rental company, or repair business reasonably believes the vehicle or equipment will not be used (except for testing or a similar purpose during maintenance or repair) when the device or element is inoperative.

For more information, please contact me at 850-245-9928 or [Robert.Manspeaker@fldoe.org](mailto:Robert.Manspeaker@fldoe.org).

RM

cc: Tony Woodard, Technical Engineer, Blue Bird Corporation  
Ricky Stanley, Senior Designer, Thomas Built Buses, Inc.  
Ron Briggler, Technical Engineer, IC Bus Corporation  
Chris Rustman, Florida Transportation Systems, Inc.  
Glenn Matthews, Matthews Bus Alliance, Inc.  
Mike McCullough, Sun State International Trucks, LLC.  
Mark Eggers, Assistant Deputy Commissioner