

Subpart B—Transportation Requirements

§ 1310.10 General.

(a) Each agency must assist as many families as possible who need transportation in order for their children to attend the program in obtaining that transportation.

(b) When an agency has decided not to provide transportation services, either for all or a portion of the children, it must provide reasonable assistance to the families of such children to arrange transportation to and from its activities. The specific types of assistance being offered must be made clear to all prospective families in the program's recruitment announcements.

(c) Each agency providing transportation services is responsible for compliance with the applicable requirements of this Part. When an agency provides transportation through another organization or an individual, the agency must ensure the compliance of the transportation provider with the requirements of this part.

(d) Each agency providing transportation services, must ensure that each vehicle used in providing such services is equipped with:

(1) a communication system to call for assistance in case of an emergency;

(2) safety equipment for use in an emergency, including a charged fire extinguisher that is properly mounted near the driver's seat and a sign indicating its location;

(3) a first aid kit and a sign indicating the location of such equipment; and

(4) a seat belt cutter for use in an emergency evacuation and a sign indicating its location.

(e) Each agency providing transportation services must ensure that any auxiliary seating, such as temporary or folding jump seats, used in vehicles of any type providing such services are built into the vehicle by the manufacturer as part of its standard design, are maintained in proper working order, and are inspected as part of the annual inspection required under § 1310.13(a) of this subpart.

(f) Each agency providing transportation services must ensure that all accidents involving vehicles that trans-

port children receiving such services are reported in accordance with applicable State requirements.

(g) Each agency must ensure that children are only released to a parent or legal guardian, or other individual identified in writing by the parent or legal guardian. This regulation applies when children are not transported and are picked up from the classroom, as well as when they are dropped off by a vehicle. Agencies must maintain lists of the persons, including alternates in case of emergency, and up-to-date child rosters must be maintained at all times to ensure that no child is left behind, either at the classroom or on the vehicle at the end of the route.

§ 1310.11 Child Restraint Systems.

Effective January 20, 2004, each agency providing transportation services must ensure that each vehicle used to transport children receiving such services is equipped for use of height- and weight-appropriate child safety restraint systems.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 66 FR 5311, Jan. 18, 2001, § 1310.11 was added, effective January 20, 2004.

§ 1310.12 Required use of School Buses or Allowable Alternate Vehicles.

(a) Effective January 18, 2006, each agency providing transportation services must ensure that children enrolled in its program are transported in school buses or allowable alternate vehicles that are equipped for use of height- and weight-appropriate child restraint systems, and that have reverse beepers. As provided in 45 CFR 1310.2(a), this paragraph does not apply to transportation services to children served under the home-based option for Head Start and Early Head Start.

(b) Effective February 20, 2001, each agency receiving permission from the responsible HHS official to purchase a vehicle with grant funds for use in providing transportation services to children in its program or a delegate agency's program must ensure that the funds are used to purchase a vehicle that is either a school bus or an allowable alternate vehicle and is equipped

(1) for use of height- and weight-appropriate child restraint systems; and

(2) with a reverse beeper.

(c) As provided in 45 CFR 1310.2(a), paragraph (b) of this section does not apply to vehicles purchased for use in transporting children served under the home-based option for Head Start and Early Head Start.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 66 FR 5311, Jan. 18, 2001, §1310.12 paragraph (a) was added, effective January 18, 2006.

§ 1310.13 Maintenance of vehicles.

Each agency providing transportation services must ensure that vehicles used to provide such services are maintained in safe operating condition at all times. The organization operating the vehicle must establish and implement procedures for:

- (a) a thorough safety inspection of each vehicle on at least an annual basis through an inspection program licensed or operated by the State;
- (b) systematic preventive maintenance on such vehicles; and
- (c) daily pre-trip inspection of the vehicles by the driver.

§ 1310.14 Inspection of new vehicles at the time of delivery.

Each agency providing transportation services must ensure that bid announcements for school buses and allowable alternate vehicles for use in transporting children in its program include the correct specifications and a clear statement of the vehicle's intended use. Such agencies must ensure that there is a prescribed procedure for examining such vehicles at the time of delivery to ensure that they are equipped in accordance with the bid specifications and that the manufacturer's certification of compliance with the applicable FMVSS is included with the vehicle.

§ 1310.15 Operation of vehicles.

Each agency providing transportation services, either directly or through an arrangement with another organization or an individual, to children enrolled in its program must ensure that:

- (a) On a vehicle equipped for use of such devices, any child weighing 50 pounds or less is seated in a child restraint system appropriate to the

height and weight of the child while the vehicle is in motion.

(b) Baggage and other items transported in the passenger compartment are properly stored and secured and the aisles remain clear and the doors and emergency exits remain unobstructed at all times.

(c) Effective January 20, 2004, there is at least one bus monitor on board at all times, with additional bus monitors provided as necessary, such as when needed to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities. As provided in 45 CFR 1310.2(a), this paragraph does not apply to transportation services to children served under the home-based option for Head Start and Early Head Start.

(d) Except for bus monitors who are assisting children, all vehicle occupants must be seated and wearing height- and weight- appropriate safety restraints while the vehicle is in motion.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 66 FR 5311, Jan. 18, 2001, §1310.15 paragraph (c) was added, effective January 20, 2004.

§ 1310.16 Driver qualifications.

(a) Each agency providing transportation services must ensure that persons who drive vehicles used to provide such services, at a minimum:

- (1) in States where such licenses are granted, have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for vehicles in the same class as the vehicle the driver will operating; and
- (2) meet any physical, mental, and other requirements established under applicable law or regulations as necessary to perform job-related functions with any necessary reasonable accommodations.

(b) Each agency providing transportation services must ensure that there is an applicant review process for use in hiring drivers, that applicants for driver positions must be advised of the specific background checks required at the time application is made, and that there are criteria for the rejection of unacceptable applicants. The applicant review procedure must include, at minimum:

- (1) all elements specified in 45 CFR 1304.52(b), with additional disclosure by