

Frequently Asked Questions:

Which law is my vehicle regulated under?

Public Act 345 – the Limousine, Taxicab and Transportation Network Company Act.
www.michigan.gov/TNC.

Regulates vehicles with a seating capacity of 8 passengers or less, including the driver.

Public Act 432 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act. www.michigan.gov/busandlimo.

Regulates vehicles with a seating capacity of 9 passengers or more, including the driver.

How do I determine seating capacity?

MDOT uses the Federal Motor Vehicle standard of 14 inches per designated seating position. Please refer to our Guidance Document at www.michigan.gov/busandlimo and select Seating Determination from Forms and Reference Documents.

Based on seat measurement, my vehicle will hold 9 passengers, plus the driver, but I only allow 8 passengers to be on board. Can I license my vehicle as a limousine under PA 345?

No, it is legally defined as a bus by Michigan and federal regulations if the seating capacity is designed to be greater than 9 passengers, including the driver.

What are the Insurance Requirements for a bus?

\$1.5 million = For-hire vehicles with a seating capacity between 9 and 15 passengers, including the driver, bodily injury and property damage liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit for all persons or for property damage.

\$5 million = For-hire vehicles with a seating capacity of 16 or more passengers, including the driver, bodily injury and property damage liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit for all persons or for property damage.

How do I apply for an Authority from MDOT?

Applications can be found at www.Michigan.gov/busandlimo under Forms and Reference Documents, titled Application for Authority. Complete the application, obtain the information requested in the application, obtain insurance and have the insurance provide a completed MDOT 3040 insurance form to MDOT and submit the application and required information.

How long does it take for MDOT process my application for an Authority?

Processing of a **completed** application usually takes two to three weeks.

How do I schedule my annual bus inspection?

Contact your inspector two weeks prior to the month in which it is due.

I am a non-emergency medical transportation provider. Do I need an MDOT Authority?

Yes, a non-emergency-equipped vehicle carrying 9 or more passengers, including the driver is considered a bus and is regulated under PA 432 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act.

Do I have to have my company name on my bus?

Each bus on a motor carrier's roster shall display the motor carrier's legal name or assumed name and primary telephone number on both sides of the bus, in a color that is in sharp contrast to the background color and in a size that is visible from a distance of at least 50 feet.

Do I need to have a USDOT number?

Yes. All vehicles regulated under PA 432 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act, require a USDOT number.

What is the difference between "intrastate" and "interstate?"

"Intrastate" means picking up someone in this state and transporting them to somewhere else in this state.

"Interstate" means picking up someone in this state and transporting them to another state or country, or transporting someone from another state or country and dropping them in this state.

My company is based in another state and we plan on touring locations in Michigan. Are there any permits, filings or licenses required?

Michigan is proud to provide open borders to interstate motor carriers of passengers with no filings required. Carriers must have a valid federal interstate operating authority while performing interstate movement in Michigan. To provide intrastate transportation, all carriers must have an MDOT Authority.

If my company is based in another state but I pick up passengers in Michigan for transport within Michigan, do I need an MDOT Authority?

Yes.

The bus I'm buying is a yellow/black school bus. Do I have to repaint it?

Yes, because according to state law (MCL 257.1833), a bus shall not be painted National School Bus Yellow unless it is used primarily for the transportation of pupils to or from school, inspected and authorized by the Michigan State Police; however, a bus leased seasonally to transport agricultural workers to and from a field for agricultural operations is an exception and, therefore, can also be painted National School Bus Yellow.

Can I have open intoxicants (alcohol) in my vehicle?

The Michigan Vehicle Code Act 300 of 1949 Section 257.624a – Transportation or possession of alcoholic liquor in open or uncapped container or upon which seal is broke; is in violation and a misdemeanor; exception; subsections (1) and (2) inapplicable to passenger in commercial quadricycle; definitions, section 4 states” **This section does not apply to a passenger in a chartered vehicle authorized to operate by the state transportation department.”**

If your vehicle is authorized under Public Act 432 of 1982, as amended – the Motor Bus Transportation Act - it is legal for passengers to have open intoxicants (alcohol) in the vehicle.

How do I access MDOT’s on-line computer system BLRIS?

Go to www.michigan.gov/busandlimo and select BLRIS (Bus & Limo Regulatory Information System) tab. From the guidance documents, select Accessing BLRIS User guide and follow the steps to obtain access to the system.