

Frequently Asked Questions

Which law is my vehicle regulated under?

Public Act 345 – The Limousine, Taxicab and Transportation Network Company Act regulates commercial for-hire passenger transportation vehicles with a seating capacity of 8 passengers or less, including the driver. The Act and other important information can be found at: 517-241-221 <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/cscl/licensing/prof/tnc>.

Public Act 432 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act regulates commercial for-hire passenger transportation vehicles with a seating capacity of 9 passengers or more, including the driver. The Act can be found at: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-432-of-1982.pdf?20140806142541>

How do I determine seating capacity?

MDOT uses the standard of 14 inches per seating position as defined in 49 CFR § 571.10 - Designation of seating positions. More detail and an example can be found on MDOT's Seating Determination guidance document located at: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/SeatingDetermination2014_470983_7.pdf

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

No, if the vehicle can hold 9 passengers, including the driver then it is regulated by PA 432. To be regulated under PA 345 the seating capacity of the vehicle must be physically reduced to be 8 passengers or less, including the driver.

What are the Insurance Requirements?

474.110 Liability insurance coverage:

Sec. 10. (1) An applicant shall acquire the following liability insurance coverage:

- (a) For buses with a seating capacity of between 9 and 15 passengers, including the driver, bodily injury and property damage liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit of \$1,500,000.00 for all persons injured or for property damage.
- (b) For buses 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 of \$5,000,000.00 for all persons injured or for property damage.

How do I apply for an Authority from MDOT?

Complete and submit the Application for Authority form located under the Bus & Limo Forms section at www.Michigan.gov/busandlimo

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

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

Can I take my vehicle to a garage for its annual inspection?

No. Annual vehicle safety inspections are performed by MDOT Vehicle Safety Inspectors.

How do I have my vehicle inspected by an MDOT inspector and how do I contact them?

The MDOT inspector in your county can be found on the MDOT Bus and Limo webpage under Contact Us.

How do I schedule my annual safety inspection?

Contact your inspector two weeks prior to the month in which your inspection 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 regulated under PA 432 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act.

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

474.115 Display of motor carrier's legal or assumed name:

Sec. 15. Except as otherwise provided in this section, each bus on a motor carrier's roster shall display the motor carrier's legal name or assumed name as listed on its application for authority or official request for name change as submitted to the department 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. The display required under this section shall meet the vehicle identification requirements of 49 CFR parts 390 to 399.

Do I need to have a USDOT number?

All vehicles regulated under PA 432 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act, require a USDOT number. A USDOT number can be obtained at: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/do-i-need-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 and / or picking up passengers in Michigan to go to another state. Are there any permits, filings or licenses required?

Public Act 432 of 1982, Section 474.104 (L) does not apply to an interstate motor carrier that is providing a multistate regular route service listed in the North American Bus Timetables that passes through this states. Carriers providing a multistate regular route service must have a valid federal interstate operating authority while performing interstate movement in Michigan. To provide intrastate transportation or providing transportation for Michigan residents that is not “multistate regular route service”, 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. As detailed in the Motor Bus Transportation Administrative Rules:

R 474.2 Applicability.

Rule 2. Carriers operating intrastate regular route or charter service offering trip origins within this state shall comply with the requirements of the act.

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

Yes. MCL 257.1833 subsection 1 details the paint requirements for school buses.

Sec 33 (2) states:

A bus, other than a school bus, shall not be painted, in whole or in part, in the colors and design specified in subsection (1). This subsection does not apply to either of the following:

- (a) A bus leased seasonally to transport agricultural workers to and from a field for agricultural operations.
- (b) A bus certified by the state transportation department that is owned and operated by a private carrier primarily under contract with a school system that is also used for occasional charter service to the public or for school-related event transportation.

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

257.624a of the Michigan Vehicle Code Act 300 of 1949, describes the transportation or possession of alcoholic liquor. 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 alcoholic liquor in the vehicle.

How do I access MDOT's Bus & Limo Regulatory Information System (BLRIS)?

It is a two-step process. Go to <https://milogintp.michigan.gov> and follow the steps to create a profile for State of Michigan Login for Third Parties. Then click the Request Access button and scroll down to the Michigan Department of Transportation and select Bus and Limousine Regulatory Information System (BLRIS). BLRIS guidance documents can be found on the MDOT Bus and Limo webpage.