

**THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT**

From

To

**Thiru S. Murugaia, I.A.S.,**  
Transport Department,  
Chepauk,  
Chennai – 600 005.

**All Regional Transport  
Officers,**

**R.No. 49734/H3/2011, Dated: 28.07.2011**

Sir,

Sub: Safety of School Buses – guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding safe transportation of school children – imposing permit conditions - regarding.

Ref: Lr.No. RT-11036/18/2011 – MVL dated 03.06.2011 from the Ministry Road Transport of Highways, Government of India, New Delhi.

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Government of India, in the reference cited has stated that Supreme Court of India in its order dated 20.11.1997 in W.P.(C) No 13029/1985 had laid down certain guidelines to be followed by the enforcement and educational authorities with regard to safety of the school buses carrying children. The gist of the guidelines is summarized below:

- (i) School buses should be painted yellow.
- (ii) "School Bus" must be written on the back and front of the Bus. If it is a hired bus. "On School Duty" should be clearly indicated.
- (iii) Bus should have a First-Aid-Box.
- (iv) Bus should be fitted with speed governor of specified standard.
- (v) The windows of Bus should be fitted with horizontal grills.
- (vi) There should be a fire extinguisher in the Bus.
- (vii) School Name and Telephone No. must be written on the Bus.
- (viii) The doors of the Bus should be fitted with reliable locks.
- (ix) To keep School Bags safely, there should be a space fitted under the seats.
- (x) There must be a qualified attendant in the Bus to attend to children.
- (xi) Any parent/guardian sitting in the bus or a teacher may also travel to ensure these safety norms.
- (xii) The driver should have at least five years of experience of driving heavy vehicles.
- (xiii) A driver who has been challenged more than twice in a year for offences like red light jumping, violation of lane discipline or allowing unauthorized person to drive can not be employed.

- (xiv) A driver who has been challenged even once for the offence of over speeding, drunken driving and dangerous driving etc can not be employed.

The Ministry has instructed to include the above guidelines as permit conditions while issuing permit for educational institution buses. As per Section 2 (47) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 an educational institution bus is a transport vehicle and therefore requires a permit granted under Section 76 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 to ply on the public road.

Therefore you are requested to take necessary steps to attach the above guidelines as further permit conditions along with the existing permit conditions prevailing for educational institution vehicle contemplated under Rule 172 of Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicle Rule 1989 by following the procedures laid down in Section 76 (3) (iii) (b) and expedite the matter and give your complaints report early.

You are also requested to maintain strict traffic discipline among the drivers of school Buses and this aspect should be ensured at the time of enforcement. If any violation is noticed on part of the drivers of the school buses appropriate action should be initiated under relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act and Rules

Sd/- S.Murugaia,  
Transport Commissioner  
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

**Copy to:** All Zonal Officers  
for follow up action.

//By Order//

Personal Assistant to STA