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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic

Hiring buses for a school trip

Submitted by the Government of Israel

This document, submitted by the Government of Israel, provides a set of rules to follow while hiring buses for school trips in Israel. The document contributes to a possible development of WP.1 recommendations in this area.

1. Transportation of the pupils/students will be in a vehicle that has been authorized, that meets the requirements of the Ministry of Transport regulations, and which is not more than 10 years old. In accordance with Regulation 84 (5), the organized transport vehicle will be of a company that employs a safety officer who holds a license to transport children, is the graduate of a first aid course etc. The driver's driving and rest hours will be in accordance with the relevant transport regulations. A driver transporting children will meet all the requirements of the Ministry of Transport.
2. As a precondition to being authorized to perform transportation operations, once a month the transport company's safety officer will sign on a safety register confirming the roadworthiness of the vehicle.
3. The person in charge of the trip will ensure that the driver is aware of the requirements from him, including travelling on unpaved roads, waiting for instructions of the person in charge of the trip, sleeping and eating arrangements, and transportation to evening, night and morning activities.
4. The person in charge of the trip, or a teacher selected by him, will check the bus to verify the presence of water tanks, a stretcher, a rescue kit, a first aid kit, working microphone and mobile telephone. For field trips alone, the amount of water on the transportation vehicle (bus) will be at least 60 liters. This quantity of water, intended for emergency, will be without relation to the overall water calculation for the trip.
5. Prior to departure on the trip, an individual roll call of the participants present in the vehicle must be held. A copy of the list of passengers must be left in the educational institution.
6. Transportation will be only while seated. No walking around the vehicle will be permitted while driving and no body parts or objects are to be removed from the window of the vehicle.
7. Transporting a number of pupils in excess of that specified in the vehicle's license is forbidden.
8. The transportation of pupils during a trip will only be when all pupils are seated in a comfortable and safe manner in a properly affixed seat.
9. An escort will sit in each vehicle together with the pupils (near the entrance doors).
10. While transporting the pupils in the vehicle to the trip and to other activities under the auspices of the educational institution, no passenger unknown to one of the adults on the trip is to be allowed on to the vehicle.
11. In all types of vehicle, the passages to the exit points must remain clear.
12. When parking the vehicle for the purpose of dropping off passengers, or for explanations, the adults will alight first, stand at the side of each vehicle, and immediately move the pupils to the pavement or other place of safety outside the vehicle.
13. If two or more vehicles participate in the trip, the person in charge of the trip will direct the teachers in the vehicles regarding telephone contact and meeting and stopping points.
14. Unless necessary due to organizational or security compulsion, travelling in a convoy is not desirable. Travelling in a convoy may cause disruptions to traffic and a burden to drivers and escorts who will find themselves concerned with maintaining "convoy discipline").

15. In cases of the pupils/students travelling by foot, the driver will wait at fixed points and move from point to point according to a predetermined schedule, and act as an evacuation vehicle in case of need.

16. The teacher in charge will ensure that the drivers carrying out the transportation service will perform security checks prior to allowing pupils to enter the vehicle. Security checks will also be carried out during and after the trip in order to locate suspicious objects and children or items forgotten in the vehicle. At the commencement of service of each day's activity, the vehicle will be clean both internally and externally.
