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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 (Revised)

Submitted by the Government of Sweden

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

Proposal for safety criteria of transport services for school children

1. Professional transport makes up a significant proportion of the traffic on our roads. Most of it is carried out on someone's behalf - an organisation, a forwarder, or a company that provides transport of people or transport from a manufacturer or a store to a customer.
2. Previously, responsibility for transport lay almost totally with the driver, and therefore depended partly on traffic legislation. More recently, responsibility is starting to shift and now also involves bus companies, hauliers etc., the management of which can be held responsible for the way in which transport is carried out. Within their management systems, many bus companies and hauliers in Sweden have now drawn up guidelines and routines for working conditions, traffic safety, and the environment linked to road transport, thereby accepting the view that implementation of transport is a management matter. The general feeling has been that there is a need for co-operation between management and drivers for transport to attain high quality.
3. A third party which can affect this issue a great deal are the transport buyers. Buyers provide the conditions for transport, and through their requirements they can dictate the road safety, eco-friendliness, and working conditions of transport. Buyers therefore have a major responsibility for transport. All transport buyers have the opportunity to set requirements to ensure that the transport they buy should meet criteria that result in high quality. It is therefore of utmost importance to assist transport buyers so that in purchasing they will apply criteria which give better working conditions, increased traffic safety, and reduced environmental impact from passenger transport and heavy road vehicles.
4. When it comes to the safe transport of school children Sweden proposes the following criteria:
 - The vehicle/vehicles performing the transport must be equipped with seats for all passengers;
 - The vehicle/vehicles performing the transport must be equipped with seat belts for all seating positions;
 - The company performing the transport must have routines or technical systems in the vehicles securing the use of the seat belts;
 - The vehicle/vehicles performing the transport must have technical systems which prevent drunk driving, e.g. alcohol interlocks;
 - The company performing the transport must have routines or technical systems in the vehicles securing the obedience to the speed limits;
 - The company performing the transport must have routines and technical equipment in the vehicles securing the safe transport of disabled passengers;
 - The company performing the transport must have routines securing that the driver is in a good physical and mental state e.g. through extra health check-ups and drug checks;
 - The vehicle/vehicles performing the transport must be a part of a program with extra brake check-ups.
5. It is important to note that the forthcoming standard on road traffic safety management systems, ISO 39001, could replace the proposed criteria since they are more or less integrated in the standard.

6. Another important note is that even though crashes with children inside school transport vehicles might cause severe damage it is important to note that most children who are killed or injured in school transports are on their way to and from the bus. Therefore other measures are of importance.

7. When it comes to safety aspects of the environment, Sweden propose the following safety criteria:

- Bus stop sign at all drop of and pick up locations. Should include a quality demand for the selection of bus stop locations.
 - Avoid high speed roads as pick up or drop of spots.
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