



# Department of Transport

Belmopan, Cayo District.

*Belmopan Bus Terminal, Belmopan City, Belize C.A.*

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Deadline for the Upgrading of Buses and Revised Requirements for Road Service Permit Application**

**Date:** October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Department of Transport and the Transport Board hereby notify all bus operators of the forthcoming deadline for the upgrading of buses in accordance with the updated bus standards. The deadline for operators to upgrade their buses is **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. By this date, all bus operators are required to have their buses in compliance with the standards.

Bus operators are reminded that non-compliance with these standards by the specified deadline may result in penalties, including potential suspension or revocation of Road Service Permits by the Transport Board. The Department of Transport and the board are seeking your full compliance as we move towards improving public transportation in Belize.

Bus operators and other potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Department of Transport Headquarters for additional information, if necessary.

Contact: 828-6752

Email: [departmentoftransport@yahoo.com](mailto:departmentoftransport@yahoo.com)

Please see Annexures below for more details.

**END**

## **Annexure 1- Duration of Road Service Permits**

The duration of a Road Service Permit shall be in accordance with Table 1 below.

**Table 1.**

<b>Manufacture Year of Bus</b>	<b>Type(s) of applicable permit</b>	<b>Duration of Road Service Permit</b>
Within 5 years of the current year	All types	10 years maximum
Within 10 years of the current year	All types	7 years maximum
Within 15 years of the current year	All types	5 years maximum
Exceeding 15 years of the current year	All types	2 years maximum

### **Types of Road Service Permits**

1. Highway
2. Shuttle
3. Village
4. Tour Operators
5. Charter
6. Workers
7. School

## **Annexure 2- Requirements for Road Service Permit applications.**

The applicant of a Road Service Permit shall provide to the Department of Transport a copy of the documents outlined in Table 2 below. All photo identification must be valid, and the copies thereof must be in coloured ink only.

**Table 2.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Required Document(s)</b>
	<b>Applicant's Information</b>
1.	Proof of address (Utility bill or Letter from landlord, signed by Justice of the Peace with utility bill attached)
2.	Business plan (Including financial information, Colours and colour patterns of bus(es), Design of staff uniform)
3.	Social Security Card or Passport
4.	Driving License
5.	Company Registration Certificate from Belize Companies Registry
6.	Trade License from respective municipal authority (If applicable)
7.	Belize Tax Services Certificate of Registration
8.	Images of the motor vehicle (Front view, Side view, Rear view, Inside view)
9.	Certificate of Registration for motor vehicle(s)
10.	A recent passport size picture.

**END**

11.	Application fee of \$100.00 new \$50.00 for renewal (non-refundable)
<b>Employee's Information (Driver)</b>	
1.	Proof of address (Utility bill or Letter from landlord, signed by Justice of the Peace with utility bill attached)
2.	Social security or Passport
3.	Customer Service Certificate of Completion, issued by recognized institution
4.	Driving license (Must have <b>Class C</b> or <b>Class C2</b> )
5.	Medical documents from registered medical practitioner for physical and mental examination, including tests for illegal substances in the blood, Cholesterol and Triglyceride levels, sight, hearing and other medical conditions.
6.	Driving record (If applicable)
7.	Defensive Driving Certificate of Completion, issued by recognized institution
8.	Criminal record issued by the Belize Police Department
<b>Employee's Information (Conductor, Terminal Supervisor, Route Supervisor)</b>	
1.	Proof of address (Utility bill or Letter from landlord, signed by Justice of the Peace with utility bill attached)
2.	Social security or Passport
3.	Customer Service Certificate of Completion, issued by recognized institution
4.	Criminal record issued by the Belize Police Department

### **Annexure 3- Bus Standards**

The standards for public service vehicles (motor omnibus) shall be in accordance with Table 3 below.

**Table 3.**

<b>1. Suspension and Support (R. 50):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every public bus should be equipped with adequate and suitable suspension system between the frame of the vehicle and each wheel. This ensures a smoother ride and enhanced vehicle stability.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Braking System (R. 51, 53 &amp; 127):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All buses must be equipped with a functioning braking system.</li> <li>The braking system must be regularly maintained to ensure it remains in good and efficient working order.</li> <li>Brakes must be correctly adjusted at all times when the bus is operational on roads.</li> <li>Buses must have a functioning and well-maintained braking system.</li> <li>Regular inspection and maintenance of all brake components, including brake pads, brake lines, and the braking mechanism itself, are mandatory.</li> <li>Adjustments and repairs to the braking system must be made promptly to ensure efficient working order.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Audible Warning System (Horn) (R. 54):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each bus should be fitted with an instrument capable of emitting clear and audible warnings to signal its approach or position. This is vital for pedestrian and road user safety.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Tyre Requirements and Maintenance (R. 56 &amp; 129):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus tires must be in good condition and free from defects that could damage road surfaces or pose dangers to passengers and other road users.</li> <li>Buses should be equipped with pneumatic tyres. This type of tyre is filled with air and offers a smoother ride and better traction on roads.</li> </ul>

**END**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tires used must be within 6 years of the manufacture date</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tires must be free from the protrusion of wires or other materials exposed due to defect.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular tire inspections, including tread depth and tire pressure checks, are necessary to maintain road safety. Tire tread depth must not be less than 2/32 inches when measured with a tire tread depth gauge.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Mud and Water Protection (Mud wings) (R. 57):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public buses should have wings or similar fittings near their wheels to prevent mud, water or other debris from being projected onto other vehicles or pedestrians. If the bus's body already provides this protection, additional fittings may not be necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Emission Control (R. 62, 128 &amp; 133):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buses must be maintained and operated in a manner that prevents the emission of smoke, visible vapors, grit, sparks, ashes, cinders, or oily substances that could damage the environment or endanger other road users</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buses must be designed and maintained in a way that they do not emit any unnecessary smoke or visible vapour.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buses must have a properly functioning exhaust system that includes a silencer or expansion chamber.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular inspections of the exhaust system are required to ensure it complies with noise and emission requirements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alterations to the exhaust system that increase noise emissions are prohibited.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Rear-view Visibility (R. 60 &amp; 64):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All buses should be fitted with rear-view mirrors, appropriately adjusted to offer the driver a clear view of the road behind. This is essential for safely changing lanes and monitoring traffic conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Speedometer/ Tachograph (R. 67):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buses must have an instrument in place that constantly indicates to the driver their current speed.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Seating (R. 68 &amp; 97):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public buses should be equipped with recliner seats, each measuring a minimum of fifteen inches in width. This ensures passenger comfort during transit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seats located over a wheel arch should be positioned to ensure they do not cause discomfort to passengers.</li> </ul>
<b>10. Step Safety (R. 88):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All bus steps should be equipped with non-slip treads to ensure the safety of passengers while boarding or alighting.</li> </ul>
<b>11. Exits and Emergency Exits (R. 89):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every bus with a permanent top must have at least two exits. One can be an emergency exit, but both exits cannot be on the same side of the bus.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency exits must have a clear opening size of at least 7½ sq. ft. (5' x 18") with a minimum height of 4' and a width of no less than 18".</li> </ul>
<b>12. Entrance and Exit Doors (R. 90):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All entrance and exit doors must be easily opened with a single operation of their locking mechanism.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door handles or levers should be designed to prevent accidental operation or dislodgement.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grab handle should be fitted to all entrances and exits (excluding emergency exits) to assist passengers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doors, including emergency exits, should be designed for easy opening from both inside and outside the bus.</li> </ul>

**END**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Door design must not obstruct clear access to any entrance or exit.</li> </ul>
<b>13. Emergency Exit Markings (R. 91):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All emergency exits should be clearly marked and indicated in red font.</li> <li>Emergency exits must open outwards for quick evacuation.</li> </ul>
<b>14. Interior Lighting (R. 99):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buses with a permanent top must have sufficient artificial lighting.</li> <li>At least one lamp should be placed as close as possible to every entrance and exit, ensuring safety during nighttime boarding or alighting.</li> </ul>
<b>15. Ventilation (Air Condition) (R. 100):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate ventilation/ air condition should be provided for both passengers and the driver without needing to open any primary window or windscreen.</li> </ul>
<b>16. Windscreen and Wiper (R. 102):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buses fitted with a front glass windscreen for the driver must also be equipped with an efficient automatic windscreen wiper to ensure clear visibility during adverse weather conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>17. Windshield (R. 132):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All glass or other transparent materials on buses must be kept in a condition that does not obstruct the driver's vision while the vehicle is in operation.</li> <li>Any cracked or obstructed windows must be repaired or replaced promptly. Such crack shall not exceed 6 inches.</li> </ul>
<b>18. Directional Indicators (Turn Signals, brake lights, reverse lights) (R. 134):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All buses must be equipped with functional mechanical indicators for signalling changes of direction, intentions to stop and intentions to reverse.</li> <li>Regular checks of these indicators are necessary to ensure they are in working order.</li> </ul>
<b>19. Noise Emission Control (R. 135):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buses should not emit excessive noise either directly or indirectly due to defects, lack of repair, faulty adjustments, or improperly packed loads.</li> <li>Regular maintenance and inspection of the bus's components, including the engine, exhaust system, and suspension, are required to minimize noise emissions.</li> <li>Drivers should exercise due diligence to prevent excessive noise.</li> </ul>
<b>20. Exterior lights (Marker Lights)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buses must be equipped with external marker lights to indicate the vehicle size, vehicle shape, and direction of travel.</li> </ul>
<b>21. Mileage</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mileage of a bus must not exceed three hundred thousand (300,000) miles.</li> </ul>
<b>22. Fuel type</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of butane is prohibited</li> </ul>
<b>23. Buses must comply with all other requirement of construction and maintenance of motor vehicles mandated by the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations.</b>

**END**