

Introduction

Effective February 1, 2007, the new **School Bus Inspection Handbook** will be implemented as both a guide for all school bus inspections conducted by the State School Bus Inspectors and as a reference for school district maintenance personnel. Every school bus in operation in a public school district in Arkansas will be inspected using the criteria outlined in this handbook.

The handbook is divided into the following four sections for easy reference:

1. School Bus Interior
2. School Bus Exterior
3. School Bus Engine Compartment
4. School Bus Undercarriage

Each section is broken down into three columns:

1. The first column identifies the item to be inspected and the procedure to be followed during that inspection.
2. The second column identifies the repair criteria and establishes the minimum deficiency to which the repair will be applied.
3. The third column identifies the out of service criteria at which point the bus will be taken out of service and remains so until the deficiency is corrected and certified as serviceable.

Example:

A. INSIDE		
1. Stepwell/Grab Rails		
Inspection Procedures:	Repair if:	Out of Service if:
a. Stepwell 1) Check specification and condition of stepwell and tread.	Step tread is not secure or sealed at inside edge where it meets next step. Stepwell tread ribbing is worn smooth less than four (4) inches in width when measured one inch (1") or more from the edge.	Step tread is not secure or sealed elsewhere on step. Any tripping hazard. Stepwell tread ribbing is worn smooth more than four (4) inches in width when measured one inch (1") or more from the edge. Sheet metal in stepwell is rusted through, has holes or structure has weakened and step(s) flex when weight is applied.

The handbook is to be used by local district maintenance personnel conducting the two semi-annual required inspections. Copies may be downloaded at <http://arkansasfacilities.arkansas.gov/transportation/school-bus-inspection-handbook>.