

# SPECIFIC ISSUES FROM THE BUS AND COACH REGULATIONS

Tony Wallace

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Johnsons Coach Travel

**OPERATORS VIEW POINT**



**Tony Wallace**

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Family Owned Company  
Since 1909



Committed to Quality  
Committed to Safety  
Customer Focused



British Guild of Coach Operators

**UK Top Coach Operator 2005**

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Definitions:-

**Minibus**

A minibus is a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than 8, but not more than 16 seated passengers in addition to the driver. (This definition includes less obvious vehicles such as Land Rovers and other similar vehicles that have more than 8, but not more than 16 seated passengers.)

**Coach**

A coach is defined as a type of large bus (i.e. a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than 16 seated passengers in addition to the driver) which has a gross weight of more than 7.5 tonnes and a maximum speed exceeding 60mph.

**Bus**

A large bus which does not meet the weight or speed criteria of a coach is referred to as a bus. The legislation does not apply to this type of vehicle.

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## New Regulations

The new regulations will mean that seated passengers aged 3 years and above will have to use seat belts where they are fitted in the larger buses and coaches. In vehicles over 16 seats, the driver is exempt from this responsibility because he cannot be expected to monitor seat belt wearing and drive safely at the same time.

The regulations for this will be laid in Parliament at the same time as the child seat regulations. Subject to Parliamentary approval, they are intended to come into force during September.

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## Specific Issues

### Enforcement of wearing seatbelts

Primary / Infant schools have escorts

Secondary / Colleges / Grammar Schools etc do not

*How do we train drivers in something that is difficult to police*

### Signs

What size? / Where to be placed? / How many?

### Safety Announcements

How? / When? / What wording is to be used ?

**Hopefully we will know in September**

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## Child Seats

Nothing in law to prevent child seats being used if they fit. However, coaches may only have lap belts and most child seats need lap and diagonal belts in order to be secured.

Type approval – not all coaches are the same design

Costs - £2,000 to fit a coach out with belts

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## Challenge

It takes time to change people's attitudes. Our campaigns try to make people think about road safety and take on board key messages.

(Gov. Think Campaign)



Backwards

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