A recent newspaper article in Ontario suggested that Transport Canada is preparing new passenger restraint regulations for school buses. The school bus industry was surprised by the suggestion and contacted Transport Canada for clarification. Officials at Transport Canada indicated that their seat belt policy has not changed. Here’s an excerpt . . .

“Based on its accident research analysis, Transport Canada has determined that seat belts may actually adversely affect the safety of children on school buses. For example, school bus crash tests conducted by the department revealed that lapbelted occupants would be more likely to sustain serious head and neck injuries than would unbelted occupants in frontal collisions.

The department also believes that combination lap and shoulder belts could pose problems, because they cannot be adjusted to safely restrain smaller children and any slackness could injure a child. In addition, these seat belts would require the presence of stiff seats for installation, which could cause injury to an unbelted child.

Continued on Page 3 . . .
2004 School Bus Order
Blue Bird Vision

The 2004 school bus order has been placed with Fairway Ford Bus Sales (Blue Bird). The pilot model review took place in early September and it is anticipated that new Vision school buses will begin arriving in Manitoba by December 1st.

School Bus
Driver Instructor’s Seminar

Nineteen registrations were received for Phase I (September 14-16) and Phase II (October 5-7) of the Instructor’s Seminar being held at Canad Inns - Polo Park. This level of participation is overwhelming when compared to previous seminars. (Phase I evaluation results and comments can be found in Appendix A).

In order to certify current participants, the Pupil Transportation Unit (PTU) will hold Phase III on October 13-15 at the Viking Inn in Gimli. Phase III information has been communicated to participants. Other interested individuals should contact the PTU office in either Rivers (204-328-5402) or Winnipeg (204-945-6900).

!! New Location !!

Over the summer, Sandy Campbell relocated to PTU's Winnipeg office. He can be reached by phone at 204-945-4676, by fax at 204-948-2154; or by email at sacampbell@gov.mb.ca.

School Bus
Safety Week
October 17 - 23, 2004

“I See The Driver - The Driver Sees Me” is this year’s School Bus Safety Week theme, and also the theme for MASBO’s School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The theme serves as a reminder for students to maintain eye contact with the school bus driver whenever crossing in front of the bus and to follow the driver’s directives. Drawings for the contest must be submitted to MASBO by November 5, 2004. Additional contest information can be obtained by contacting Wayne Lehmann at 204-729-3975.

In early October, the Pupil Transportation Unit distributed a package of information to school divisions, private schools, and band-operated schools which included:

מן a letter from Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

מן a letter from Chuck Beaudry, Pupil Transportation Unit

מן a list of resource materials available to schools from the PTU office in Rivers.

Guidelines for Transporting Special Needs Students

In June 2004 Policy Guidelines for Transportation of Students With Special Needs was circulated to school division superintendents, secretary-treasurers, and transportation supervisors.

The document is now included in the appendices of Supporting Inclusive Schools: A Handbook for Student Services and can also be found on the Education website - www.edu.gov.mb.ca - then select these links . . .

Kindergarten to Senior 4; Special Education; Documents; Supporting Inclusive Schools: A Handbook for Student Services; Appendices (in upper right hand corner of page); Appendix 4.
Automatic Transmissions

Automatic transmissions in school buses cost approximately $3,500 and as of 2005, manual transmissions will no longer be offered in school bus chassis. Appendix B contains an article from the July 2004 edition of Truck News. It provides some information about the cost, maintenance, and electronics of automatic transmissions.

Seat Belt Policy (continued from page 1)

To ensure that safety regulations provide a high level of protection to school bus occupants, Transport Canada continually analyzes school bus accident data and reviews standards regularly to take into account emerging safety-related issues."

Transport Canada is working on a proposal to have one child seat anchorage system designed into each bench seat of all size school buses. Currently, only small buses under 10,000 GVW are required to have two bench seats equipped with child seat anchorage.

For more information on seat belts, see Transport Canada's website: http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/bus/schoolbus/BUSBELTS.c.HTM.

Happy Thanksgiving

... from Chuck, Sandy, Winston, and Vickie of the Pupil Transportation Unit.
**School Bus Driver Instructor’s Seminar**  
**Phase I Evaluation Form**  
**September 14 – 16, 2004**

This form is designed to assist you in communicating your reaction to material presented at this Seminar. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the topics on a scale of 1 to 5 (“1” being least satisfied; “5” being very satisfied).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, Sept. 14th - Unit “A”</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Retention</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Effectiveness to Usefulness to you as an Instructor</th>
<th>Additional Comments</th>
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### OVERALL PROGRAM

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**Seminar Location:** 17 Good 2 Fair 0 Poor  
Hold in location other than Winnipeg

**Seminar Timing:** 17 Good 1 Fair 1 Poor  
Too early in school year
More time between Phases II and III

**Comments:** See attached.
General Comment

- Generally positive comments/liked seminar (6)
- Seminar interesting/enjoyable/well done (5)
- Positive comments re: John (knowledgeable/interactive approach/presentation style) (3)
- Would like to see videos of the lessons (2)
- Dislike seminar timing (1)
- Seminar shouldn’t always be held in Winnipeg (1)
- Would like more time between Phases II and III (1)

Quotes

- The teaching technique was fun, not so intimidating. I enjoyed the style and look forward to Phase II. I feel like I am ready to start teaching. I am very glad for all the resource tools and discussions held.
- Would like more information on government testers and what they are looking for (re: testing).
- Superior listening skill exhibited. Great flow. Very well done on personal experiences. I found it easy to express myself in the class due to John’s approachability.
- A greater division of provincial law or local school board acts should be made. Some people do not know what is provincial law and what are their own school division policy rules.
To view the article from the July 2004 edition of Truck News about the cost, maintenance, and electronics of automatic transmissions click on to