

CDL Passenger (P) Endorsement Exam

QUICK REFERENCE CHEAT SHEET | FMCSA / 49 CFR Part 383

P ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Rule	Requirement
Who needs it?	Any CDL driver transporting 16+ passengers (including driver)
Vehicle types	School buses, transit buses, charter buses, hotel shuttles (if 16+)
Medical card	Valid DOT medical certificate required at all times
Pre-trip inspection	Required before every trip; include all passenger areas
Passenger safety	Must check for prohibited items, stowaways before departure
Emergency exits	Know location of all exits; brief passengers when required

BUS SAFETY & PASSENGER MANAGEMENT

Topic	Key Rule
Loading/Unloading	Never leave passengers unattended while loading; use all mirrors
Prohibited items	No hazardous materials; check luggage areas
Standing passengers	Only when permitted by law; within allowed standing area only
Seat belts	Require use where available; note state laws vary
Student passengers	Extra care; mirror routine; do NOT move until all students are clear
Emergency exits	Rear door, roof hatches, push-out windows -- know operation of each
Railroad crossings	Stop 15-50 ft before RR crossing; open door; look and listen; no gear change while crossing

PRE-TRIP INSPECTION -- BUS SPECIFIC

Item	Check
Emergency exits	Open and close properly; not blocked; labels visible
Passenger area	Clean; seats secure; handholds secure
Standee line	Marked where standing passengers must stay behind
Fire extinguisher	Charged and mounted; accessible
Emergency reflectors / flares	Present and accessible
Roof hatches	Secured in normal (closed) or cracked position

EXAM-DAY TIPS

- + Railroad crossings: ALWAYS stop (no exceptions for buses carrying passengers).
- + Stop 15 ft minimum from nearest rail; no further than 50 ft.
- + At RR crossing: do NOT shift gears while crossing -- stay in chosen gear.
- + Standee line: all standing passengers must remain behind the line while bus is moving.
- + Brake check before moving: test air or hydraulic brakes before each trip.
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