

RMV School Transport (7D) Industry Webinar

August 25, 2020

| Question | Answer |
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| Are there any fees associated with MOU application? | No, there are no fees to submit the Memorandum of Understanding for the temporary waiver. |
| Given the USPS issues currently being faced there is concern that letters will not be received in a timely manner | Thank you for the feedback. Letters were mailed on August 24 and August 25, and we anticipate that all will be delivered by Friday, August 28. If you have 12-seat 7D vehicle(s) and would like to request a temporary waiver, you can use the forms available on our website http://www.mass.gov/rmv and/or email us at SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us . |
| The required pre and post inspections and weekly/monthly audit reports are only for companies requesting the seating waiver? Not companies that are in compliance? | Pre- and post-trip inspections are not new and are required by law for all 7D vehicles. The other newly required weekly and monthly reports are only for those 7D vehicles requesting a temporary waiver. |
| What if you have not received a letter? | All registered 7D vehicle owners should receive a letter. There are various letters depending upon the seat capacity of the registered 7D vehicle. All letters can be viewed on http://www.mass.gov/rmv |
| The website still shows Renew by Mail, in order to print out a paper application. Are we going to turn away drivers who already have a paper application printed out and completed? Or will you still be accepting paper applications until you remove "Renew by Mail" from the website. | Thank you for pointing out the "Renew by Mail" option on the website. At the time of the webinar, the RMV was in the process of updating the website to remove the "Renew by Mail" option. The pages have since been updated. |
| Is a Google Classroom still okay to be using in order to earn 7D In-service hours? Should we be going back to in-person training or using Zoom to train? | Yes, both Google Classroom and Zoom are acceptable for training use until the end of the State of Emergency. |
| Why it's 12 passenger Temporary?? | Per Massachusetts regulation 540 CMR 7.00, no 7D vehicles can have a seating capacity of more than 10 passengers, plus the driver, for a total of 11 seats. A temporary waiver is available to provide time for those owners who already operate 12-seat vehicles to come into compliance. |
| If I'm not receiving the letters my vehicles are fine?? I'm ready registered last month 10 | All registered 7D vehicle owners should receive a letter. There are various letters depending upon |

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| <p>passanger van pupil plates no body said anything; hopefully I'm fine because I'm don't want loss more money!!!</p> | <p>the seat capacity of the registered 7D vehicle. All letters can be viewed on http://www.mass.gov/rmv. Please contact us at SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us if you have questions on any of your vehicle registrations.</p> |
| <p>Can someone please touch on the liability/collision insurance coverage requirements for 7D vehicles</p> | <p>The RMV does not oversee insurance coverage/requirements and recommends that you contact your insurance carrier or agent for any questions regarding insurance coverage.</p> |
| <p>Ok there have been no changes in the regard of insurance</p> | <p>The RMV does not oversee insurance coverage/requirements and recommends that you contact your insurance carrier or agent for any questions regarding insurance coverage.</p> |
| <p>What if you have a mini van that you just purchased what needs to be done now</p> | <p>Please email the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department with a copy of all required documents: SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us.</p> |
| <p>Can we download this forms ourselves from the RMV Ressources website or will we receive them from you?</p> | <p>Both options are acceptable. You can download forms on the RMV website. Additionally, the RMV field inspector will bring forms during the onsite visit.</p> |
| <p>Due to the Corona Virus, how many children should we allowed to carry now in respect to distance?</p> | <p>The RMV does not oversee state regulations regarding Covid-19 protocols. We recommend reviewing Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines and contacting them with questions.</p> |
| <p>Is the child reminder for every vehicles (newer and older)</p> | <p>Child reminder systems are required for all vehicles that are model year 2018 or later.</p> |
| <p>Will a recording of this be available for public use for those who may not have been able to make it to this scheduled webinar? Thanks</p> | <p>Yes, you can find both the recording and the PowerPoint presentation from the webinar on the RMV's Business Partner website.</p> |
| <p>Slide 5 states that 12 or more seat vehicles will have registrations canceled as of Sept 4th. we were told by the RMV that that would NOT happen, that they would be able to use them through their current inspection which is valid through the end of november. This cuts that deadline short by MONTHS.</p> | <p>540 CMR 7.00 states that the seating capacity requirement went into effect on July 1, 2020. We apologize for the misinformation and confusion.</p> |
| <p>Regarding the change of deadline for these vehicles, this is a major problem. We were not informed of the Sept 4th date, and we specifically asked about use of these vehicles through 11/31 and were told yes. So for a company who is planning to REPLACE the vehicle, they now only have less than two weeks instead of two months.</p> | <p>540 CMR 7.00 states that the seating capacity requirement went into effect on July 1, 2020. We apologize for the misinformation and confusion.</p> |

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| Clarification to that last question, i am referring to the vehicles that don't apply for the waiver, they thought they had until 11/31 to replace 13-15 pass vans | 540 CMR 7.00 states that the seating capacity requirement went into effect on July 1, 2020. We apologize for the misinformation and confusion. |
| in terms of capacity you can do 8 pupils 1 monitor and 1 driver? | No. 7D regulations permit transportation of a total of eight passengers (plus the driver). Anyone except for the driver is considered a passenger. |
| Also my 7D drivers perform pre and post inspections on their vehicles daily. We do not fall under the special circumstance program are our own forms for this process sufficient | Thank you for your feedback. Pre- and post-inspections are required for all 7D vehicles, not just for those requesting a waiver. We are aware that many companies have their own/industry forms that comply with the regulations. RMV field investigators review these forms to ensure they are acceptable. |
| How can we do driving training for license renewals with the Covid19? | We are allowing virtual training or other alternatives. Please email the RMV (SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us) to ensure your source of training is approved. |
| How do the drivers get the 8 hour annual trainings required to renew licenses with the pandemic and not meeting with the drivers? | We are allowing virtual training or other alternatives. Please email the RMV (add link) to ensure your method of training is approved. |
| Is there a waiver process for vehicles with 15 seat capacities? | No. A temporary waiver is only considered for vehicles with seating capacity of 12 (including driver). Those vehicles with more than 12 seats are not in compliance for student transportation and must swap plates to another plate type or cancel plates by 9/4/20. |
| The child reminder system was originally due to be put it by October 2020 but the first slide you showed said July 2020. What is the date? | The regulations stipulate July 1, 2020. |
| For the new registration process, is that referring to all new 7D vehicles or only for the vehicles with the 12 passenger waiver? | The new registration process requires all 7D vehicles to be inspected by an RMV field investigator prior to obtaining school pupil plates. |
| So if we need any new 7D pupil plates we have to go to one of the 5 registry locations listed? Once COVID restrictions end will all registry locations have pupil plates or will it still only be the 5 locations listed? | All new school pupil plates are only available at one of these five registry locations: Braintree, Haverhill, Milford, Springfield, Wilmington. This process is going to continue going forward. |
| Can we modify vans with driver partitions? | Please reach out to the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department via email (SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us) to have a field investigator inspect your vehicle. |
| Can regular 7d plates that were canceled due to covid just be renewed? | To reactivate a cancelled plate, you must show proof of insurance by submitting an RTA form . If you still have the plates, once you submit the RTA |

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| | with proof of insurance the RMV can reactive those plates. |
| Could you provide a copy of the new regulations...I'm not seeing it online with mass.gov or the RMV. Thanks | You can view the regulations on the RMV website . |
| Am I correct to assume that the total seating capacity is 11? | 7D vehicle regulations stipulate that a 7D vehicle can have a maximum seating capacity of 11 seats, including the operator. However, the maximum number of passengers is eight (plus the driver). |
| The front seat is never used. Can it be removed? | It can, but not for the purpose of reducing your seat count to the 11. |
| Can u please clarify seating capacity and passenger capacity | 7D vehicle regulations stipulate that a 7D vehicle can have a maximum seating capacity of 11 seats, including the operator. However, the maximum number of passengers is eight (plus the driver). |
| If we have an employee that we want to get 7D certified, is the test online now or do they have to take a paper test? Are they giving out new 7D licenses. | The test is not available online and must be taken at an RMV Service Center (by appointment). Please apply on-line and if you have difficulty getting an appointment for a test, please reach out to the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department for assistance: SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us . |
| Are there new restrictions about how far kids need to be spaced apart? Can we still the same amount of kids in the vans? | The RMV does not regulate any COVID-19 based restrictions. We recommend that you check with the Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) on current guidance based on COVID-19. |
| Does the RMV provide a training for the 8 hours in-service training for renewals? | The training curriculum is available online at on the RMV website . |
| where can we find registry approved pre-trip and post-trip forms? | These forms are posted on the RMV website . |
| the child reminder system is not required for vans that are between 2015-2017, correct | Correct. Child reminder systems are required for all vehicles that are model year 2018 or later. |
| hi can new candidate for 7d certificate get to take the permit at home ? | We assume you are talking about the certificate test, as no permit is issued for 7D. There has been no change to the way the test is given. You must make an appointment at a service center that offers the test. |
| 8 passengers + the driver,that is fine? | Yes. The maximum number of passengers for school pupil transport is 8, plus the driver. |
| I just renewed my registration for 10 passengers,8 + the Driver | Ok. Thank you |
| Should the students and the driver wear masks? | The RMV does not regulate any COVID-19 based restrictions. We recommend that you check with the Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) on current guidance based on COVID-19. |

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| I have a 12 passenger van. if I purchase a 8 passenger van older then a 2018. will I be required to get a check mate system? | No. Child reminder systems are required for all vehicles that are model year 2018 or later. |
| my license expires in November. does this mean my license expires now in October? | No. Licenses that expired or are expiring between March 1 and September 30, 2020 all now expire on October 1, 2020. All other credentials expire on the date stated on the credential, so in this case, your license still expires in November. |
| how long is the temp waiver for? | All temporary waivers expire no later than August 31, 2021 and may be revoked at any time at the Registrar's discretion. |
| is there a chance the waiver will be extended past August 31st? This is a big expense to have to purchase all new vans?? | There are no plans to extend the waiver past August 31, 2021. |
| Daycares need to be told they cannot change to livery or passenger if they are doing school transport. Home to school school to home, changing plates is not an option? | Thank you. We will notify this industry. |
| can I use my 12 passenger van to transport vocational students to and from a job site | Yes. |
| 7 passengers van has to have new child remaining sistem | Child reminder systems are required for all vehicles that are model year 2018 or later. |
| what will happen to 7D renewals that have been mailed in already? | They are being processed in order they are received. There is currently no backlog in processing 7D renewals. Please email us SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us if you mailed in your renewal more than 15 business day ago. |
| Does the 8-person (plus driver) capacity limit apply to trips that do not originate or end at a school property? | Yes. It applies to any fixed route carrying children. |
| For vehicles under the MOU, if schools are fully remote and vehicles are not operational immediately, will the monthly inspections still be conducted beginning in Sept.? | Please notify us if you are not using your vehicle; SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us . |
| Are the monthly reports and visits for all 7D vehicles regardless of the volume of vehicles, frequency of vehicle use, or number of miles driven with children? | Yes. All 7D vehicles that are requesting a temporary waiver must provide daily, weekly, and monthly reporting, as outlined in the MOU. More info and forms are posted on the RMV website . |
| Are there guidelines from the RMV regarding the number of students who can be transported and safety precautions via a 7D vehicle at a time during the COVID-19 pandemic? | No. RMV does not provide guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) has published guidelines, and the RMV suggests you consult with DESE. |

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| can we get the waiver form online. We have not recieved it in the mail as of yet. | Yes, all forms pertaining to 7D temporary waiver, including the Memorandum of Understanding, are posted on the RMV website . |
| What is the process to renew expired 7Ds and for training new 7 D drivers? | Please go online to renew your 7D certificate. Available trainers are posted on the RMV website |
| will there be any 7D classes upcoming soon so that we can get staff trained and permitted. | Please go online to renew your 7D certificate. Available trainers are posted on the RMV website |
| Do you still have to take the 7D class before getting a 7D permit and where can we take the class | Please go online to renew your 7D certificate. Available trainers are posted on the RMV website |
| If a 12 passeneger is only need for two week until a new 10 Pass 7D Van is ready does the waiver need to be complited for just two weeks of use? | Yes. If it is going to be used after September 4. |
| do we have to have a monitor inside a 10 passenger van as well? | The RMV does not stipulate when you need a monitor and suggests that you contact the school district of the students you transport, or the Department of Early and Secondary Education. Monitors are typically assigned based on a students' needs and agreement with the school district. Any changes put into effect due to the pandemic are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Early and Secondary Education. |
| Question, is it vailed and legal were a 7D operator is purchaing ford transit cargo vans with the window option and adding seating for a total capacity of 10 passengers? Is this acceptable As it was not designed from the factory | Please reach out to the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department via email SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us to have a field investigator inspect your vehicle. (add link) |
| When drivers are renewing their 7D certificates, do the training hours ned to be recorded in the 12 months prior to their renew date or the 12 months prior to October 1, 2020? | The in-service training is required within the 12-month renewal period of your 7D certificate. |
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| Should childcare systems that subcontract with transportation companies collect the same paperwork that is submitted to the RMV for our records? | That is up to you. The paperwork needs to be with the registered owner and available to RMV staff at any time. |
| So far, any of this information affects the 7 passenger mini vans right? | It does not affect 7 seat vans. |
| Every 7D company with a 12 passenger capacity will receive the letter, or everyone despite the capacity? | All registered 7D vehicle owners will receive a letter. There are three different letters, based on seating capacity. You can view the letters on the RMV website . |
| With the online processing, how are the medical records and the notarized document going to be submitted? | All required documents must be uploaded to the website to be submitted with the online application/renewal. |
| If i have a 14 passenger van, can i remove seats and registered as a 10 passenger? | No. |

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| <p>The information that was given did not specify how companys that pruchased new vehicles before the 10 pass mandate, are you stateing that the large vans you cannot remove seats to comply with rule. So the RMV is telling me i know have to purchase new vehicle to use with pupil plates?</p> | <p>540 CMR 7.09 states that the seating capacity of 10 passengers in addition to the driver, went into effect on July 1, 2020. This regulation was published on March 9, 2018.</p> |
| <p>There has been a delay in issuing new 7D, I have a couple drivers that have been waiting for 3 weeks, any idea when those will be mailed out?</p> | <p>We have no pending applications at this time. We are processing all applications within 2 business days.</p> |
| <p>As far as Child reminder safety, any recommendation where we can purchase that. I called a company that was going to charge close to \$500 per vehicle. Can you tell us exactly what type of child reminder system we need?</p> | <p>The Child Reminder System is the name of the device. It is an electronic device installed in the rear most section of the seating compartment. This device is programmed to activate if the driver does not deactivate by pushing a button on the electronic device when shutting down the vehicle. This forces the driver to inspect the vehicle for any sleeping or hidden children. Child Check Mate, a Canadian company is one of the vendors who sells this device.</p> |
| <p>Is there guidance on seating capacity for a regular minivan?</p> | <p>7D vehicle regulations stipulate that a 7D vehicle can have a maximum seating capacity of 11 seats, including the operator. However, the maximum number of passengers is eight (plus the driver). If you are asking for guidance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we suggest you reach out to the Department of Early and Secondary Education.</p> |
| <p>can you remove two seats from a 12 passenger GMC van to make it 10 seat?</p> | <p>Please reach out to the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department via email SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us to have a field investigator inspect your vehicle.</p> |
| <p>for vans above 12 passengers, what will be the options for schools, can we use bus plates?</p> | <p>For registered 7D vehicles with seating capacity above 12, the owner can swap plates for either passenger or livery plates or cancel the registration. If no action is taken prior to September 4, 2020, the RMV will cancel the registration for 7D vehicles with more than 12 seats.</p> |
| <p>Can the September 4 2020 be extended as that's in a week or is the RMV quickly approving the waivers</p> | <p>It cannot be extended and VSCS is making every effort to approve all waivers as they are received.</p> |
| <p>Can a current 7d vehicle with more than 10 passengers be modified by a NHTSA approved modifier to have 10 passengers and re-registered as a 10 passenger van?</p> | <p>VSCS is aware of this process and is investigating.</p> |
| <p>Why the distinction between 12 passenger and 14 or 15 passenger vans in reference to the</p> | <p>Based on NHTSA, NASDPT, and other national transportation advisories, which stated that large</p> |

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| potential ability to have them modified and re-registered as 10 passenger? They are the exact same van except for the number of installed seats, which will be changed. | vans with more than 11 seats - where each seat can weigh 150 pounds - that the more weight in the vehicle the more likely a roll over and greater injury to passengers. We are following national guidelines and allow no more than 11 seats. |
| Hi when will the "School Pupil 7D Training Locations" list be updated on the website. | It was last updated just before the webinar |
| When are the waivers going to be mailed out | Letters were mailed out to owners of all registered 7D vehicles on August 24 and 25. Those that are eligible for a waiver also will receive a Memorandum of Understanding to submit if they would like to be considered for a temporary waiver. |
| what if registration say that you 6 passenger but its a 7 passenger | If your registration incorrectly lists the seating capacity, you need to amend the registration. Please submit new Registration and Title application, checking "amend" or contact us department via email SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us and we will help. |
| What happens if I have a van that i want waived after the sept deadline, lets say sometime in December, can I do that? | Yes. However, your plates will be cancelled on 9/4/20. You can reactivate your plates after your waiver has been approved. |
| I thought 8 were reserved for the pupils aka students not including the monitor | That is incorrect. The maximum number of passengers is eight (plus the driver). |
| Cancelled plates can be reactivated and I can use the same plates? | To renewal a cancelled plate, you must show proof of insurance by submitting an RTA form (add link). If you still have the plates, once you submit proof of insurance the RMV can reactive those plates. |
| If I took the train the trainer training back in September 2019 am I qualify to train my drivers ? | Yes. |
| We are planning oo purchasing a newer vehicle. besides the training and pre trip daily inspections is anything else required for 2018 or newer vehicles monthly reports | Please reach out to the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department via email SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us . |
| WHO CAN I SPEAK TO ABOUT RENEWING MY INSTRUCTORS LICENCE IVE ASKED AROUND FOR CLASSES BUT NO ANSWERS YET. IT EXPIRING IN NOV | Please renew your Instructor Certificate online within 90 days of expiration. |
| Do these regs apply to the mini-bus vehicles in addition to vans? | The regulations apply to all 7D vehicles. |
| Why am I having a hard time reregistering my 7d1/2 | Unfortunately, the 7D1/2 vehicles are currently tied into the RMV system requirements, but there is a system change going in to allow the 7D1/2 vehicles to remain registered because they are exempt from this regulation. |

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| Can I get the class in Spanish? | It is not available at this time. |
| When is the next train the trainer | Please continue to watch the website |
| i received a letter from rmv saying that the van changes was for octover 2021 not for this year | 540 CMR 7.00 states that the seating capacity requirement went into effect on July 1, 2020. We apologize for the misinformation and confusion. |
| i dont understand why RMV change the day and year without sending any letter with out notice. | 540 CMR 7.00 states that the seating capacity requirement went into effect on July 1, 2020. We apologize for the misinformation and confusion. |
| if my van is 12+ went is the last day for me to be diving sep 4? | 7D vehicles with seating capacity of more than 11 (including driver) are currently out of compliance. Action needs to be taken by September 4, or the RMV will cancel the registration for those vehicles that are out of compliance. |
| What about the EEC social distancing rule for younger passengers? | RMV does not provide guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) has published guidelines, and the RMV suggests you consult with DESE. |
| when will you have the answer for the recertification of the 12 passenger vans And can we register new 12 passenger vans that are not currently registered? | We are working on it. We are not registering 12 passenger vehicles. |
| What is the specific guidelines for applying for registering after plates were cancelled and destroyed on vehicles already owned by the company? | You must submit a completed Registration and Title Application that includes proof of insurance. |
| When will the Milford registry be open for 7d tests? | The Milford RMV Service Center is a drop-off center and there are no current plans to conduct 7D tests at this service center. |
| Why cant we streamline the application process for 7D certificates by having on-line tests and also why do we do both Cory and fingerprinting? Why not just fingerprinting which covers evrerywhere? | The RMV does not have access to fingerprinting. We are researching an on-line exam. |
| Can you remove a seat from a Ford Transit Van that has the same exact body style as a 10 12 & 15 passenger and comes from the manufacturer as such? In other words when you order a van from Ford you are allowed to add or take out seats and they are all under 10,000 lbs | Please reach out to the Vehicle Safety and Compliance department via email SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us to have a Field Staff member inspect your vehicle. |
| Why is it that we are doing away with 12 passenger vans for 7D but it is ok to use them for special needs adults for the state of MA? | 7D is in Mass General Laws and what this department is responsible for. |
| Are the letters you're talking about being sent ot the fleet management company (owner) OR the end-use (the lessee?) | They are being sent to both the registered owner and lessee. |

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| <p>Do you mean 9 pupils plus the driver?</p> | <p>No. 7D vehicle regulations stipulate that a 7D vehicle can have a maximum seating capacity of 11 seats, including the operator. However, the maximum number of passengers is eight (plus the driver).</p> |
| <p>My 7D expired at the end of February. Do I have to take the test and submit all medical paperwork again?</p> | <p>You don't need to take another test, but you must submit updated medical paperwork. You can start your renewal application online: RMV website.</p> |
| <p>The DESE transportation guidance only covers school buses. Do we as van drivers have to abide by the DESE recommendations.</p> | <p>Please reach out to DESE.</p> |
| <p>Where could we find the curriculum for the training?</p> | <p>The training curriculum is available on the RMV website.</p> |