

We, at Elwierda, have a corporate responsibility to keep travellers informed about our bus/coach safety procedures. We put the safety and security of all our passengers on the top of our agenda with one aim - to ensure our clients enjoy safe coach hire, whether for school trips, corporate travel or sporting events.

## BUS SAFETY

Please find below some suggestions and guidelines for the safe transport of children and adults, when making use of bus transport.



- Use a company with the necessary expertise and experience, that is well known in the industry for you to check its references, and make sure the company you choose will satisfy your specific needs and requirements.
- Make sure to submit your transportation requests timely, and in writing, and make sure your specific needs are addressed, e.g. number of passengers to be transported, departure and arrival times, the specific route to travel and refreshment stops on route.
- Make sure the licence and certificate of fitness (on the license disk) are in order and that the correct number of passengers are specified. (Remember that there is a 21-day grace period, after the licence has expired, for renewal.)
- Make sure the company you choose has adequate insurance and that the cover is sufficient to cover any claim. The specifications of the PPVR of R5-million is definitely not sufficient if something does happen. Contact the insurer or broker to confirm that the policy is still in place before you except a certificate at face value.
- Where at all possible, avoid travelling during the night. A night or two's accommodation fees are not worth saving if you are going to travel on our dangerous roads through the night. Almost all fatal accidents, on our roads, happen during night time!
- Even if you request 2 drivers, which is standard for all longer trips, nobody can rest properly on a bus! Other road users do not comply with this rule and this makes it even more dangerous.
- There has to be proper supervision on all hired coaches. The bus driver cannot enforce discipline on the bus!
- Supervising staff must ensure that all passengers are seated while the bus is in transit. They are to discourage any loud shouts and screams while in transit, as this could effect the concentration of the bus driver. The driver needs to focus his attention on the road and environment.



School children comfortably seated on a 3 seat bench.



School children comfortably seated on a 2 seat bench.



- No body parts - heads or arms – may be put out through the windows.
- Nothing may be thrown out through the windows.
- Please ensure that the buses are not overloaded – everyone must have a seat to sit on and must remain seated at all times during the trip.
- Regulation 231 makes provision that more smaller children can be transported: (b) “... two children of three years or older, but under six years, count as one person; and (c) ... three children of six years or older, but under 13 years, count as two people.” This increased number makes supervision and management more difficult and sometimes even impossible!
- There is currently no regulation that makes safety belts on buses a requirement. The primary reason is that the seat- and floor design of most buses cannot effectively guarantee the safe use of safety belts. This makes it even more important that passengers must remain seated during a trip.
- Nobody is allowed to smoke or use alcohol during a trip.
- Buses are required to have a certificate of fitness (COF) inspection, once a year. This makes timely, thorough and consistent, on-going maintenance very important.
- The driver is not allowed to use a cell phone while driving – somebody can assist him with this, if necessary, or the driver must use a hands-free kit to operate the cell phone.
- Normally you will be able to tell, by general observation of the condition of the bus, how efficient the company’s management and maintenance is.
- The bus driver must have a valid professional drivers permit to be able to drive the bus.
- The driver must be clean and have a neat appearance and must, at all times, obey all traffic rules.
- The driver is not allowed to use any alcoholic beverages or beer during a trip, outing or tour. Not even after a long, hot day’s, trip!