

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of hearing
to amend Rule 4501-5-01,
to rescind Rules 4501-5-02, -03, -04, -05, -06, -08, and -09
and to adopt new Rules 4501-5-02, -03, and -04
of the Ohio Administrative Code in accordance with
Chapter 119. of the Ohio Revised Code

Notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held by the Ohio Department of Public Safety for considering adoption of the above-listed administrative rule changes.

Based on a R.C.119.032 rule review of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4501-5 and as authorized in Section 4511.76. of the Ohio Revised Code, the Department of Public Safety proposes to amend Rule 4501-5-01, to rescind Rules 4501-5-02, -03, -04, -05, -06, -08, and -09 and to adopt new Rules 4501-5-02, -03, and -04 of the Ohio Administrative Code. These rules comprise the Ohio Department of Public Safety Ohio School Bus Construction standards.

Proposed changes are to update, and to enhance the clarity, usability, and organization of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4501-5. Proposed changes include clarification of the definitions for "Type A" and "Type B" school buses, adjustment of the gross vehicle weight ratings of "Type A-I and Type A-II school buses, updating of equipment requirements to align the Ohio standards with national and industry standards, clarification of the applicable versions of incorporated standards, identification of the numbers of referenced rules as they are reorganized and renumbered in this filing, specification of a new location for reflective vehicle markings, replacement of the term "disability" with the term "special needs", removal of a major portion of rule language addressing design and operation of wheel chair power lifts which since July of 2005 has been included in a federal motor vehicle inspection standard that provides, in part, for an increase in the design load of a wheel chair lift from 600 to 800 pounds, and increasing the maximum size of a wheel chair lift special entrance door. In line with federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, rule language reduces the number of emergency window exits required from four to two and as recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board for all school buses, language includes a requirement for installation of a noise suppression device.

A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held Thursday October 9, 2008 at 10:00 AM in room 109 (first floor) of the Charles D. Shipley Building, Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Either written or oral testimony will be received at the hearing. Additionally, written comments received at the address below before the hearing will be treated as testimony.

Requests for a copy of the proposed rules or comments on them should be submitted in person or by mail to the following address: Office of Legal Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 West Broad Street, Suite 531, P.O. Box 182081, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2081, Telephone: (614) 466-7014.