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Title: Bus Seat Back Foam Inspection Guidelines

Applies To: All Bus Models

WARNING:

To prevent serious eye injury, always wear safe eye protection when you perform vehicle maintenance or service.

WARNING:

To prevent unexpected movement of the vehicle and possible serious personal injury or death, park the vehicle on a flat, level surface, set the parking brake, turn the engine off, and chock the wheels to prevent the vehicle from moving in both directions.

DESCRIPTION

Seat back foam inspection processes can vary significantly. In addition, the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures offers limited information on the seat back foam inspection process. The below information outlines the recommended guidelines for inspecting seat back foam on IC school buses.

Initial inspection should begin as you walk down the aisle to inspect the seating. Seat back foam across the top of the seat back, from the front to the back of the unit, should be symmetrical. Seats that appear non-symmetrical should be physically checked to determine if the foam condition has exposed the metal seat frame structure. Keep in mind seat designs, IC, IMMI, CE White, etc, will have a difference in seat profile if a unit is equipped with mixed seating. Inspections are confirming the functional properties of the seat back assembly. Upholstery sew lines improperly aligned with the foam is not an indication of foam failure and should not be used as a factor to deem seat back foam defective. Upholstery sew line alignment has no effect on the overall seat assembly integrity.

Squeezing or banging the top of the seat back foam for the detection of the metal frame, as well as thickness or density of seat back foam comparisons to competitive seat designs are inaccurate criteria for rejection. Seat foam material selection, type and density, and the manufacturing processes are tested to meet FMVSS requirements for the specific seat design.

Reasons for removal of the seat back upholstery and foam for further inspection.

- Separation of the seat back foam allowing contact between vinyl and seat frame.
- Separation of glue seams around the radius of the back which can be visually seen.
- Corners of the seats back foam rolled toward the back of the bus.
- Separation of glue seams at the bottom of the backs along the aisles.

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