

## **PRESCHOOL STUDENTS CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION DATE JANUARY 1, 2018**

### 575 IAC 1-5.5-11 Special requirements

Sec. 11. (a) Any passenger seat that has a child safety seat or restraint system attached to it must:

- (1) have a reinforced frame; and
- (2) meet the requirements of FMVSS 208, 209, and 210.

(b) The seat behind a seat that has a child restraint system that is secured using a portable seat mount (for example, cam wrap belt used for a safety vest, Star seat, ProTech seat) must be kept empty or occupied by a child who is also in a child safety restraint system.

(c) All child safety seats or restraint systems used in a school bus must be secured to a bus seat in a manner prescribed and approved by the manufacturer and must meet safety specifications as follows:

(1) A child below the grade of kindergarten must be transported in a child safety restraint system that meets all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards beginning January 1, 2018.

(2) For any child below the grade of kindergarten, the use of a lap belt alone is not appropriate.

(d) Lap boards attached to wheelchairs or to adaptive equipment shall be removed and secured separately during transport.

(e) All respiratory related equipment, such as oxygen, aspirators, and ventilators, must be securely mounted or fastened to a wheelchair, bus seat, bus floor, or to the bus wall below the window line during transit.

(f) Tanks of compressed oxygen transported in a school bus may be no larger than twenty-two (22) cubic feet.

(g) Any liquid oxygen container transported in a school bus may be no larger than thirty-eight (38) cubic feet.

(h) Oxygen tanks must have valves and regulators that are protected against breakage. Tanks must be secured to avoid exposure to intense heat, flames, sparks, or friction.

(i) A bus transporting any oxygen container must display a warning statement formatted in block-style letters not less than two (2) inches and not more than four (4) inches in height and in a color that contrasts with the color of its background that reads "OXYGEN IN USE". The statement may be formatted in decal, paint, or magnetic material and be located:

- (1) in the service door entrance on the face of the riser;
- (2) on the underneath side of a wheelchair platform; and
- (3) on the ceiling above the window section of a passenger's seating position.

**NOTES:**

I want to make you aware of specific points related to the spec above:

- 1. A lap belt alone is not an appropriate child safety restraint system (green highlight)**
- 2. If you will be using restraint system that are secured through the use of a portable seat mount that wraps around the top of the seat be aware of the effect of double loading (blue highlight). Double loading is roughly described as follows:**
  - a. When you use any kind of attachment method that wraps around the top of the seat, when there is a crash that attachment strap will pull the seat forward and if you have unrestrained children in the seat behind they also sliding forward to hit the same seat that is being pulled forward – in other words double loading that seat; that could cause the seat to fail. So you need to have any children sitting behind a seat using that cam wrap belt type of attachment they must be restrained or the seat must be empty. Additionally if you have children restrained in the second using that same attachment system then the kids in the 3rd seat must be restrained or that seat must be empty; and this continues on until you no longer have double loading happening. The difference with an integrated seat or the lap/shoulder belt is that are attached to the bottom frame of the seat and are pulling from the floor attachment so those children in the next would not be double loading since they would be pushing the top frame of the seat.
- 3. Here is a link to the NHTSA site on child restraint systems that you may find to be a useful reference for what would be an appropriate child restraint system - <https://one.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/buses/busseatbelt/index.html>.**

Should you have any questions on this requirement please do not hesitate to contact me.

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