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June 15, 2007

TO: All CCTA Drivers
FROM: Chris Cole, General Manager
RE: Bus Idling Policy

A new law regarding bus idling at schools was recently signed by the Governor. The establishment of this new law led me to review CCTA's bus idling policy to see how it conformed to the new law and whether our policy reduced idling throughout our entire system to the greatest extent practicable. I am enclosing in this memo the new law governing idling at schools and CCTA's amended idling policy.

School Bus Idling Law

NO. 48. AN ACT RELATING TO THE IDLING OF MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

(S.13)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1282(f) is added to read:

(f) Subject to state board of education rules, which may provide for limited idling, the operator of a school bus shall not idle the engine while waiting for children to board or to exit the vehicle at a school and shall not start the engine until ready to leave the school premises. The board, in consultation with the agency of natural resources, the department of health, and the department of motor vehicles, shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. The rules shall set forth periods or circumstances that reasonably require the idling of the engine, including periods when it is necessary to operate defrosting, heating, or cooling equipment to ensure the health or safety of the driver or passengers or to operate auxiliary equipment; and periods when the engine is undergoing maintenance or inspection.

Sec. 2. SCHOOL BOARDS; VEHICULAR IDLING

Nothing in this act or in department of education rules shall prevent a school board from adopting idling policies for motor vehicles other than school buses when present on school premises. By January 1, 2008, the department of education shall develop a model policy relating to idling of vehicles other than school buses to be distributed to schools for their use.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage. The rules required by this act shall take effect during the 2007–2008 academic year.

Approved: May 25, 2007

Analysis

Since CCTA doesn't operate school buses or offer exclusive school transportation from a technical application of the law, the first section of the new law doesn't apply to CCTA. However, it is my desire to operate our service when we are on school grounds or adjacent to school grounds as closely to the law as possible. In order to understand what the exceptions will be for idling on school grounds, we will need to wait until the Board of Education promulgates rules to allow for such exemptions.

CCTA Idling Policy June 15, 2007

To avoid unnecessarily polluting our environment and wasting fuel, the following CCTA Idling Policy is now in effect:

Idling at Schools

Do not idle buses at schools when students are boarding under any circumstances. When the engine is shut off, do not start the engine until you are ready to disembark from the school. You may keep the bus running while students are getting off in the morning. The reason we allow for the bus to keep running when you pull up to a school and the students are deboarding is that the engine hasn't had sufficient time to allow the oil to cool in the turbo. Not allowing the oil proper time to cool will dramatically shorten turbo life according to the manufacturer.

Bus Cool Down

Always allow for a minimum of five (5) minutes of idling for your bus to cool down to prolong turbo life. The oil temperature needs to cool for at least five (5) minutes before the bus is turned off. This will help eliminate the need for unnecessarily replacing turbos.

Pre-heater

Always leave your pre-heater on during the winter. Make sure you turn off the pre-heater when you return to the CCTA garage.

Exceptions Allowing for Idling

There are circumstances that reasonably require the idling of the engine, including periods when it is necessary to operate defrosting, heating, or cooling equipment to ensure the health or safety of the driver or passengers or to operate auxiliary equipment. CCTA expects the driver to use his or her good judgment when circumstances exist to warrant idling to operate defrosting, heating, or cooling equipment to ensure the health or safety of the driver or passengers or to operate auxiliary equipment

Other Idling Rules

- Buses should never be left idling unattended with passengers on board under any circumstances.
- Buses that are going to be left unattended for longer than five minutes should not be left idling. If you need to leave your bus idling unattended, you must lock your doors and make sure there are no passengers on board.
- If you are expecting to idle anywhere in the system for no more than five minutes, do not turn off your bus.
- If you need to load a person in a wheelchair prior to your departure and the bus is warm and not idling, please start your bus, load the person to get him/her out of the weather and then turn the bus back off.

Idling in Burlington

- The City of Burlington has a *No Idling Ordinance* that is in effect from April 1 to November 1 that prohibits idling longer than five minutes. This policy covers all CCTA buses in all municipalities we operate in – no CCTA bus can idle for more than five minutes between April 1 and November 1.
- If you are only expecting to idle at Cherry Street for 5 minutes, do NOT turn your bus off. The oil temperature needs to cool for up to 5 minutes before the bus is turned off.
- If you have a problem with building air pressure back up, you must notify maintenance (buses should not lose their air pressure in less than 1 HOUR)

This policy takes into effect the different weather conditions in Vermont. We are aware the buses cool down during the coldest of days, however, you can turn a bus back on after a break, 10 minutes prior to departure, to have a nice, warm bus for your passengers.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or the new law, please see Donna Rae.