



BusTrusted
DRIVER'S LIBRARY

VOLUME 07

SAFETY EQUIPMENT: REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED

What 49 CFR 393.95 demands aboard, what the veterans carry anyway, and the monthly check.

Every bus. Vetted. Trusted.

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Educational guide — not legal advice. Verify current federal, state, county, and local regulations before relying on any content.

VOLUME 07 · SAFETY SERIES

Safety Equipment: Required & Recommended

Federal law names exactly three things every coach must carry — and experience names a dozen more. Here's the legal floor, the professional's kit, and the five-minute monthly check that keeps both honest.



- **UL rating 5 B:C minimum**
...or TWO extinguishers rated 4 B:C each (49 CFR 393.95).
- **Securely MOUNTED**
In a bracket, not rolling in a bay. Easy to reach from the driver's seat area.
- **Charged, gauge in the green**
Check monthly; annual professional inspection tag.
- **Freeze-safe agent**
The extinguishing agent must not require protection from freezing.
- **Hazmat placarded loads: 10 B:C**
(That higher rating applies to placarded hazmat — not typical coaches.)

Figure 1 — The extinguisher rule most people misquote: 5 B:C (or two 4 B:C) for coaches — 10 B:C is the hazmat rule.

Required by 49 CFR 393.95

- Fire extinguisher: UL 5 B:C+ (or two 4 B:C), charged, securely mounted, accessible, freeze-safe agent.
- Three bidirectional reflective triangles meeting FMVSS No. 125.
- Spare electrical fuses — one of each type the coach's required equipment uses (if fused).

TRIANGLE PLACEMENT — traffic side · within 10 minutes of stopping



On curves or hills: move the far triangle back so traffic sees it before the curve.

Figure 2 — Where they go when you need them (from Volume 05).

The professional's kit (what the veterans actually carry)

Item	Why it earns its space
First-aid kit (bus-sized)	Required by several states; carried by professionals everywhere
Belt cutter / window punch	Mounted at the driver's station — seconds matter in an evacuation
Flashlights ×2 + hi-viz vest	You WILL end up on a shoulder at night someday



Item	Why it earns its space
Wheel chocks, gloves, hand tools	The small fix that keeps a trip alive
Booster pack rated for the coach	Dead batteries don't schedule appointments
Water, blankets, phone power bank	Passenger comfort during a long roadside wait
Spill pads, trash bags, small tarp	Clean coaches and dry knees
Winter: scraper, washer fluid, traction aid	Seasonal – swap in every November

The monthly five-minute check

- Extinguisher: gauge green, pin sealed, bracket tight, inspection tag current.
- Triangles: all three, hinges work, reflectors clean and uncracked.
- Kit sealed and stocked · flashlights lit · cutter reachable · fuses present.

ONE HOME, EVERY COACH, EVERY DRIVER

All of it lives in ONE known place per coach – and every driver, including the fill-in you hired last Tuesday, knows where. Equipment nobody can find is equipment you don't have.

Sources & further reading: 49 CFR 393.95 (ecfr.gov) – extinguisher ratings, FMVSS-125 triangles, spare fuses; state CDL manuals (warning-device placement).

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