



safe working hours for motor coach drivers

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Motor coaches are the safest vehicles on the road, thanks in part to regulations that govern a coach driver's working hours and rest periods (referred to as "hours of service" or HOS).

HOS regulations are meant to eliminate the potential for driver fatigue and related errors. You don't need to memorize the rules, but be aware that they may affect your plans. It is illegal for you to ask your driver to ignore them.

A reputable motor coach company will help you organize your itinerary according to HOS rules. And, if unexpected events arise during your trip, your driver can let you know whether they will affect HOS requirements. Respect for the rules means a safe trip for all.

Here is a brief outline of the HOS rules:

- Your coach driver can drive for a maximum of 13 hours per day.

Driving time can be broken up each day according to your requirements but can't go beyond 13 hours in total. By law, your driver must keep a daily log that notes driving time, other on-duty periods, and rest time.

- Your driver's full work shift can't exceed 16 hours and may include:
 - driving time (including the time required to drive to the start location of your trip);
 - a pre-trip inspection (this is a safety requirement that the driver must complete and record daily);
 - a post-trip inspection (optional); and
 - stops for fueling.

A coach driver who begins a shift at 6 am can't work beyond 10 pm that night, even if the driver had time off during the day when the group is occupied and didn't exceed the maximum driving time of 13 hours.

- Your driver must have at least 8 consecutive hours off duty following a 16-hour shift (as well as 2 hours during the shift) before starting to drive again.
- Your driver must take 24 consecutive hours off every 14 days.

