



# identifying a safe motor coach company

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It's in your best interest to make sure that you hire a safe motor coach company. But how can you tell that a company is safe? Before you choose, ask about its safety-related business procedures and practices.

Companies that offer vague answers or can't or won't provide any documentation may not be your best bet for a safe trip. Do your homework and you won't be disappointed.

## **Request a copy of the company's Passenger Transportation Branch (PTB) authority.**

PTB applications require companies to identify their National Safety Code certificate number. The PTB authority indicates that the bus company has a licence to operate in BC and a valid safety certificate.

## **Ask to see proof of a bus company's insurance.**

Look for the levels of insurance that a company has obtained as well as the policy date. Acceptable levels call for \$10 million combined, single-limit liability coverage.

## **If the trip is school related, ask to see the company's school bus permit for the motor coach.**

School bus permits are required for motor coaches carrying school-aged children on a field trip. A government Commercial Vehicle Inspector performs a separate safety inspection on the coach, which must meet certain criteria in order to receive a permit.

## **Ask about the company's vehicle maintenance procedures.**

Some companies have their own maintenance facilities, while others may work with an outside facility. Ask who completes the inspections and what's involved.

## **Ask for references.**

Take the opportunity to contact previous customers for their opinions.

