

DATE: February 13, 2004

TO: All Boards of Education and Division scolaire francophone

FROM: Dave Jackson, Director of Insurance & Risk Management

RE: Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance – School Bus Safety Inspections

Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation, Transport Compliance Branch is going to be conducting routine safety inspections on random school buses throughout the province. One of their major safety programs is the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), commercial vehicle safety inspections. Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation has recently completed a training program for Highway Traffic Officers that will be conducting the random inspections.

The Transport Compliance Branch will be coordinating with SGI to ensure their inspectors don't overlap the efforts of the SGI Safety Officers performing PMVI inspections. These will be random inspections so they will not be required every year for every school bus.

Under normal circumstances the inspections should take between 30 and 40 minutes. The inspectors will be following CVSA - Out of Service criteria, that identifies when a vehicle should be taken off the road for serious defects. All inspections are recorded in a database and when the school bus passes the inspection it will be issued a decal and the driver will be provided with a copy of the inspection form. Drivers cannot refuse to allow his/her bus to be inspected by these peace officers.

Unlike the PMVI program, the CVSA is an on-road enforcement program and all inspections will be conducted at the schools after the passengers have been unloaded.

If you have any questions regarding the above situation feel free to contact me at (306) 569-0750 or Mr. John Meed, Program Manager, Transport Compliance Branch, Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation at (306) 787-4133.

If you would like to find out more about the CVSA program in general you can visit their web site at www.cvsa.org.