

Hibben Bus Driver Requirements

Hibben's *Vehicle Use Policy* governs all scheduling & utilization, operation, maintenance and safety matters relating to our two new buses. Since we are presently seeking volunteers to drive these buses, this article will concentrate on driver requirements.

The 25 passenger Glaval requires the driver to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) while the 14 passenger Blue Bird does not. However, this does not mean that anyone with a driver's license qualifies to drive the Blue Bird. For example, the *Vehicle Use Policy* states that drivers for both buses must be at least 25 years old, have the proper license, and be approved by the Board of Trustees. A list of approved drivers will be kept in the church office. Anyone not on the list will not have access to the vehicles.

In order to be approved by the Board of Trustees, the driver must have a good driving record and of course, a valid SC Drivers License (at least a Class C for the Glaval and a Class D for the Blue Bird). A Class D is a normal driver's license. To determine if the driver does indeed have a good driving record, a copy of their driver's license must be provided to the church office. Our insurance company will then obtain a copy of their driving record.

For the benefit of those people in attendance at the CDL class on 18 September and for other members that are interested in getting their CDL, a summary of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) process is provided.

To obtain a Commercial Driver's License for the first time in the state of South Carolina, the following are required:

- You must meet federal medical requirements imposed by Federal rule 49 CFR, Part 391. (See <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rulesregs/fmcsr/medical.htm> for more information) before you take the skills test;
- Pass a vision test with the department;
- You must be at least 18 years of age to drive within the state of South Carolina and 21 years of age for interstate driving (NOTE: Hibben has imposed a 25 years of age requirement);
- Complete the CDL Application. There is a \$15.00 application fee;
- Pass all required knowledge tests for license or permit in the classification you intend to operate; and
- Pass the road test, which includes the pre-trip inspection, off-road and on-road driving.

Now, for a more detailed description of the tests: There are two categories of testing for the Commercial Driver's License; a knowledge tests and skills tests. A description of each follows:

1. **Knowledge Tests.** - Hibben's drivers only require a Class C Commercial Drivers License with a Passenger endorsement. This means that you only have to take the General Knowledge Test and the Passenger Transport Test. These tests represent the written portion. After you have passed the knowledge tests, you will be issued a CDL Temporary Instruction Permit and can then schedule the skills test. Each knowledge tests cost \$3.00.

2. **Skill Tests** - If you pass the required knowledge tests and have paid your CDL application fee, you can take the CDL skills test. There are three parts to the CDL skills test: the pre-trip inspection test, the basic control skills test, and the on-road test. You must take these tests in our 25 passenger Glaval. To be eligible for a CDL, all three parts of the CDL skills test must be passed at one time.

a. **Pre-trip Inspection.** The purpose of the pre-trip inspection is to see whether the vehicle is safe to drive. You will be required to do a pre-trip inspection of your vehicle and to explain to the examiner what you would inspect and why. The examiner will mark on a scoring form each item that you correctly inspect and explain.

b. **Basic Control Skills Test.** The purpose of the basic control skills test is to evaluate your basic skills in controlling the vehicle. You will be asked to perform four maneuvers: The Stop Line, Straight Line Backing, Forward Serpentine, and the Alley Dock.

c. **Road Test.** The purpose of the road test is to evaluate your ability to drive safely in a variety of on-road situations. You will drive a test route following the instructions given by the examiner. The test route will include left and right turns, intersections, railroad crossing, curves, up and down grades, interstate, city and rural roads. The examiner will score specific areas of the test route. The examiner will not ask you to do anything dangerous or illegal.

If you successfully pass the above tests, the DMV will present you with your CDL license! Although the above test descriptions appear to be rather daunting, driver's that have successfully passed the test say that it isn't nearly as bad as it appears to be.