

■ **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LAWS (*MIGRANT WORKER MOTOR CARRIERS*)**

TERMS: In general, anyone who transports 3 or more migrant farmworkers at a time to or from their employment on a trip of at least 75 miles and across state lines, in any motor vehicle other than a passenger car or station wagon, is required to comply with detailed federal safety standards, summarized in brief below.

These requirements *do not apply* to a migrant farmworker transporting only the worker or members of the worker's immediate family, or to transportation systems offering service to the general public.

Driver Qualifications — Individuals who drive vehicles used to transport farmworkers, as defined above, must meet certain physical qualifications, including eyesight and hearing standards, and must be certified periodically by a doctor as having passed a physical examination. Drivers must also meet age and experience requirements and have a valid driver's license for the type of vehicle to be driven.

Vehicle Operation — Drivers must obey state and local driving rules and observe special procedures related to vehicle equipment, safe loading, rest and meal stops, authorized types of vehicles, vehicle fueling, and other safety measures. No driver may drive, or be permitted or required to drive, for more than 10 hours (not counting rest and meal stops) in any period of 24 consecutive hours, unless the driver gets 8 consecutive hours of rest immediately following the 10-hour driving period.

Vehicle Standards — Vehicles used to transport migrant workers must be equipped with prescribed devices, parts and accessories, in accordance with specifications covering lighting devices, brakes, connecting devices, tires, the passenger compartment, and protection of passengers from the weather. The person in control of any vehicle used to transport workers is obligated to inspect and maintain the vehicle and its accessories, to assure its safe and proper operating condition.

ENFORCEMENT: *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590 (800-832-5660).* The migrant farmworker transportation regulations are also enforced by the state agencies responsible for motor vehicle and transportation safety.