



Media Release

For immediate release.

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Founded in 1929, the Ontario Motor Coach Association is a full-service trade association representing 80 bus operators, over 100 tour operators and over 700 affiliated sellers to the group tour industry including attractions, destinations, hotels, and retail outlets across North America. Operator members provide scheduled intercity, charter, tour, school bus, contract, shuttle, airport and transit services. The OMCA works with all levels of government to outline the industry's contributions and concerns regarding a seamless, sustainable public and private passenger transportation network.

Toronto: January 7, 2009

OMCA's Driver Licence Status Check Service Helps Bus Companies and Transit Systems Ensure Drivers Hold Valid Licences

The Ontario Motor Coach Association (OMCA) has implemented its Bus Driver Licence Status Check service, a practical and affordable way for Ontario bus companies and transit systems to confirm at regular intervals that their bus drivers continue to hold a valid licence. Every three months the new service checks the drivers' licence status in the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) driver licence database and electronically notifies the bus company or transit system of any drivers whose licence status has changed. The service was developed by OMCA with the support of Travelers Insurance. So far, 55 operators have subscribed, covering over 18,000 drivers.

Recognizing the value of such a service to their customers and prospects, Travelers, a major insurer of bus and coach operators provided some financial support to OMCA to develop this service. "The whole idea is to reduce the risk of improperly licensed bus drivers", said Brian Crow, president of OMCA. "Obtaining a driver's abstract once or twice a year may not be enough because a driver's licence status can change at any moment as a result of a suspension, class downgrade or airbrake endorsement change."

Subscribing bus companies submit electronically to OMCA (via a secure password-protected website) a driver roster listing driver licence numbers, class and air brake endorsement (if applicable). Once every three months, OMCA submits the licence numbers to MTO for a licence status check. MTO sends the results back to OMCA where they are electronically analyzed for discrepancies. The bus company/transit system is immediately notified by e-mail which of their drivers has been flagged for a licence status discrepancy.

The inaugural status check was conducted in December on 18,400 drivers. The service was effective in identifying bus drivers who were driving buses without a valid licence due to a suspension, downgrade or air brake endorsement issue.

Ron Malette of Tisdale Bus Lines is a strong proponent of the service, saying, "For just a few pennies per driver per day, it gives me peace of mind that all my bus drivers have a valid licence with the proper class and endorsement". Malette added, "I also benefit from savings on MTO 3-year detailed driver abstracts which I can order for any of my bus drivers at any time and view them the following morning without having to leave my office, now that's what I call service!".

OMCA's Bus Driver Licence Status Check is a service provided by OMCA for the benefit of Ontario's bus industry and is available only to members of Ontario's three bus associations; OMCA, the Ontario School Bus Association and the Ontario Public Transit Association. For further information and to register interest in becoming a subscriber to OMCA's Bus Driver Licence Status Check service, visit www.OMCA.com.

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