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Fact Sheet

Seat Belts on Motor Coaches

There has recently been a lot of interest in motor coach safety and seat belts on motor coaches. These concerns are understandable considering some of the media reporting on this issue, however, it is important to keep the issue of belts in perspective and understand all the facts.

- The industry supports the use of seat belts and has been moving forward as quickly as possible to put belts on all coaches. We have a way to go, but for the past decade, despite the lack of government regulation, all new coaches have belts as standard equipment.
- Coach operators take safety seriously and the safety of their passengers is their first priority.
- We do our best to encourage usage on coaches that are equipped with belts, but people need to put them on for them to be of use.
- Coaches remain the safest vehicles on the road. The lack of belts does not automatically make a coach unsafe, nor does the presence of belts guarantee safety. There are many factors that go into safety, belts are just one.
- Only the airline industry has fewer fatalities per km of travel. A Northwestern University study found that compared to other road transportation modes bus travel is by far the safest:



Figures: 2000 - 2009, US

Data: Northwestern University

- According to Ontario's Ministry of Transportation's annual Road Safety Annual Report, out of 775 fatal collisions in 2016, Buses (including transit) were only involved in 6.
- The chances of being killed in a coach collision are therefore very small, much smaller than the chances in being in a car crash.
- Despite the current attention on belts, they are not a cure-all for all accidents. They are helpful in certain circumstances and in certain kinds of accidents, but simply having belts does not automatically guarantee passenger safety. Therefore, not having belts does not really endanger passenger safety.