

## Additional Processes for Retrofitting Previously Retired 1996 - 1998 Model Year School Buses to Comply with New 15 Year Retirement Law.

### Scope -

This document provides additional processes for private and public owners of 1996-1998 model year diesel school buses that were previously retired from student transport pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-5.1 (twelve year law). Private and public owners of 1996-1998 model year school buses may now use these vehicles for up to fifteen years of service as defined under the revised law provided that the vehicle meets the retrofit requirements at N.J.A.C. 7:27-32 for school buses.

### Background-

Assembly bill 2260 was signed into law thereby extending the mandatory 12 year school bus retirement by three years to a new mandatory retirement from student transport after 15 model years of service. Diesel school buses can only receive the additional three years if they are compliant with the Diesel Retrofit Law and supporting regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:27-32.

The following types of school buses satisfy the requirements in A2260

- model year 1999 and newer that have been retrofit with a CCVS under contract T-2541
- model year 1999 and newer that have received an exemption.

### Non- Compliant school buses and available CCVS Retrofit Funds

School buses model years 1996 - 1998 (except those with a 20 year retirement) do not meet the requirements to receive the additional 3 years of service without being retrofit with CCVS or receiving an exemption.

We have received inquiries from fleets and installers regarding whether the state will fund CCVS retrofits for buses that were retired under the 12 year limit, but could still be used for student service under the new 15 year limit. This covers model years 1996-1998. Funding is available to retrofit these school buses. The Department will reopen its processes for CCVS retrofits for a limited timeframe to accommodate school buses in need of retrofit or, where the diesel bus engine has a closed crankcase vent as part of its original equipment- provide exemptions. All submittals must be received by the close of business on March 15, 2012.

Please note that due to the time needed to process cost estimates, component supply chain times and retrofit scheduling, it is impractical to retrofit 1996 model year school buses to provide beneficial use prior to the new retirement at the end of the current school year. The Mandatory Diesel Retrofit Program does not encourage retrofit of the 1996 model year buses, however, we are currently accepting cost estimates.

Many buses have received a “retirement” or “exempt” designation under the Mandatory Diesel Retrofit Program. Because these buses are precluded from further action in the DEPOnline submittal process, the owner must first decide which vehicles are to be reintroduced into student transport service and notify the Mandatory Diesel Retrofit Program regarding which vehicles are to be evaluated. The process is described below.

### Process

1. Provide a list of the buses needing retrofit or exemption to e-mail [adam.lewis@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:adam.lewis@dep.state.nj.us)

Include for each bus

- VIN (vehicle identification number)
- NJ License Plate number
- Bus number

2. DEP will identify and those vehicles in our data system and designate them as “rejected” thereby making them available on the owner’s DEPOnline account – allowing the owner to select the correct compliance method and submit a cost estimate.
3. The remaining process is in accordance with program regulations and as described in Diesel Retrofit Program Guidance Document for Diesel-Powered School Buses. This involves either submitting a Cost Estimate-CCVS form through DEPOnline or manually entering all the information into the DEPOnline web portal.
  - a. In cases where the owner has vehicles in the DEPOnline account as per 2 above, all information must be manually entered into the DEPOnline web portal. A Cost Estimate- CCVS spreadsheet cannot be uploaded.

### School Buses Retrofit with CCVS without a DEP Approved Cost Estimate

Some owners have elected to retrofit their buses with CCVS without a DEP approved cost estimate in order to use the vehicle within the new fifteen year timeframe. CCVS retrofits that have not been performed pursuant to an approved cost estimate under N.J.A.C. 7:27-32 cannot be reimbursed by the Department. The Department also cannot issue a compliance form for these vehicles. The Motor Vehicle Commission is still able to inspect these vehicles to determine compliance. Please contact the School Bus Inspection Unit for further process information.