



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

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# Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit of  
FMCSA's Motor Coach Safety Program  
Project Number 09M3001M000

Date: November 19, 2008

From:

Joseph W. Comé   
Assistant Inspector General for  
Highway and Transit Audits

Reply to  
Attn. of: JA-40

To: John H. Hill  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator

The Office of Inspector General plans to audit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Motor Coach Safety Program. Motor coaches carry the highest volume of passengers of all commercial modes of transportation and have the lowest fatality and injury rates. In 2005, commercial motor coaches carried over 650 million passengers and traveled 6.6 billion miles. Although a highly safe mode of transportation, when a motor coach crashes, it can kill and injure many people.

In 2006 Congressional testimony, FMCSA announced the National Motor Coach Safety Program. This program emphasizes (1) conducting more compliance reviews of motor coach carriers; (2) establishing a prioritization system for motor coach carrier compliance reviews; (3) mandating state motor coach inspection programs; (4) improving safety data, including a bus crash causation study; (5) reducing motor coach fires; and (6) expediting safety audits of new motor coach carriers.

Our audit objective is to determine whether FMCSA effectively implemented its National Motor Coach Safety Program. We plan to begin our audit immediately and will conduct the audit at FMCSA offices in Washington, D.C., selected FMCSA field offices, and selected state safety offices. We will contact your liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at (817) 978-3318.

cc: FMCSA Audit Liaison