

**Division of State Patrol
Informational Memorandum**

01-00-2

**Manual Tab 4
School Bus Inspection Manual**

**Topic: Interlock Systems On Power Lift Equipped Vehicles.
Applicable on school buses manufactured after March 1,1995.**

Background: Trans 300.76(13) requires a school bus to be equipped with a system to assure that the vehicle cannot be moved when the lift is not stowed and so the lift cannot be deployed unless the interlocks or systems are engaged. Many companies have developed different types of systems for sale with different means of complying with this rule. This memo is intended to offer guidance in determining if a system is in compliance.

Question 1: I have a system that requires the parking brake to be set prior to the lift being deployed. Is this adequate?

Decision: No, unless:

- the system has a mechanism that prohibits the parking brake to be released, or
- the system has a means to shut off the engine when the parking brake is released, or
- the system has a transmission interlock that prohibits the vehicle from being shifted out of neutral or park.

If one of these systems is not in place nothing prohibits the driver from releasing the parking brake and driving away.

Question 2: I have a vehicle that does not have the option of "park" in the transmission. The interlock system requires the vehicle to be in neutral and have the parking brake set prior to the lift being capable of being deployed. If I release the parking brake with the lift deployed the engine will shut off. At this point the vehicle is still in neutral and may roll if parked on a hill. Is this adequate?

Decision: Yes. The rule is intended to prohibit the vehicle from being driven away. Our inspection is done on a flat surface and we will not require the school bus to be equipped with a system that would prohibit it from rolling. It is the owner's discretion, as this is a possibility, but the inspection procedure will not hold this vehicle to such a high standard. This requirement would place an undue burden on industry as this system typically costs in excess of \$4,000 dollars on hydraulic braked vehicles. Air braked vehicles can easily be equipped to prevent this and it is suggested that they be equipped with a door switch that applies a service brake application when the lift door is opened.