

**Division Of State Patrol
Informational Memorandum**

6-99-8

**Tab 4
School Bus Inspection Manual**

TOPIC: Garbage Container, Brooms and Other Items

Background: Many questions have arose as to what are the allowable items that can be placed in a school bus. Such things as a windshield scraper, broom, cleaning supplies, kleenex, paper towel, garbage container, portable radio, and traction sand continue to be debated as to the legality of these items in the interior of a school bus. All these items listed are issues that can be discussed in great length with positive and negative results. An example of one such discussion is listed in the next paragraph as it pertains to brooms.

Past history has found brooms from the front of the bus to the rear in an array of locations. It is documented that brooms have been used to cause injuries between students and in one case was used to choke a driver, which did result in a crash. It is also reported that during inspections these brooms are found wedged between the seats and emergency exit windows located on the left front of some school buses therefore blocking this exit. It is not the intent of this department to ban brooms because of the legitimate safety role in the winter when cleaning the rear of the school bus from snow build up. Also under Trans 300.16(1) it requires the driver to assure the bus is clean and it is reasonable to assume a broom would be necessary to accomplish this task.

This question came up during the majority of seminars and individuals were requesting that something be created to develop uniformity in this area. Items were being tolerated in one part of the state but disallowed in another.

Decision: All items shall be kept in the driver's compartment area with one exception. This exception is a rear garbage container that must be secured and not block the aisle. The drivers compartment is defined as the area forward of the rearmost portion of the drivers seat across the entire width of the school bus. For purposes of this interpretation this compartment area is the area in front of the left and right barriers. Large items such as the portable radio, broom and traction sand shall be secured. If a container or dispenser for other items is designed it may be installed as long as it does not interfere or obstruct the required emergency equipment or create a catch space in the stepwell area. This typically becomes a problem in the Type D school bus where garbage cans tend to get wedged between the handrail and barrier.

It is suggested that items such as cleaning supplies be placed in a secured container out of sight of the students. Also such things as kleenex and paper towel tend to become distractions to a driver if students are continually requesting these items. Therefore, it is also recommended that these items be placed out of sight and used on an as needed basis as things in the open may prompt students to leave their seats and distract the driver.

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