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Agency of Transportation

School Bus Auxiliary Fuel-Fired Heating Systems

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Presently, the Vermont Periodic Inspection Manual for School Buses states on page SB 7.10 the following in regard to the inspection of auxiliary fuel-fired heating systems:

Procedure:

- 1. Review manufacturer's recommendations to ensure the heating unit adheres to all recommended installation and maintenance criteria.**
- 2. Ensure the heater unit exhaust is oriented so it is rear facing and slopes continuously downward and away from the heater to allow proper draining. Check the exhaust system carefully for restrictions or any blockage.**
- 3. Ensure the heater unit exhaust port comes at least to the outer edge of the school bus body and is not installed immediately under the fuel tank, the fuel tank filler pipe, or any emergency window.**
- 4. Check all connections, clamps and hoses for leaks, rust, corrosion or other condition, which could cause a malfunction.**
- 5. Test fire the heater looking for black smoke or other indication an emission malfunction has occurred.**

Reject Vehicle if:

Any of the aforementioned components are malfunctioning. The heater should not be operated until properly serviced.

We have learned since authoring the above procedure some brands of auxiliary fuel-fired heaters may conflict with some of the above when installed as directed by the manufacturer. It is DMV's position although the procedure mentioned above is a safe practice; the manufacturer's installation recommendations should be adhered to. If a conflict with a heater installation arises with what is described in the inspection manual, the heater should be installed per the manufacturer's recommendations.