

Ask an RSA

In this monthly feature, we invite readers to submit a question for a BCCSA Regional Safety Advisor (RSA) to address. This month's RSA is Elyse Taylor, who serves Vancouver Island.

Question:

What are the employer's main responsibilities for worker transportation vehicles, and do they include the use of personal vehicles?

Answer:

According to WorkSafeBC a "worker transportation vehicle" means a motor vehicle provided by, or arranged by, an employer to transport three or more workers to and from, or to or from, a workplace.

The transportation of workers under **OHSR Part 17** applies to all persons, including the operator, who transport workers by any vehicle operated on behalf of the employer — including personal vehicles. The term "*grey fleet*" commonly describes privately-owned vehicles used for work purposes that are not owned, leased, or provided by the employer.

All vehicles used to transport workers must be designed, maintained, and operated safely (**OHSR 17.11**).

Key Considerations

- Ensure the vehicle is safe and suitable for transporting workers.
- Evaluate road, weather, and traffic conditions before travel.
- Conduct a pre-use inspection and correct any defects that could affect worker safety before the vehicle is used.
- Ensure drivers are properly licensed and competent.
- Maintain a system for inspections, documentation, and corrective actions.
- Set clear expectations for *grey fleet* vehicles regarding maintenance, insurance, and safety.
- Provide training and procedures to ensure consistent safe practices, such as applying emergency braking systems when vehicles are unattended

Pre-Use Inspections

- A qualified person must conduct pre-use inspections of all worker transportation vehicles, as required under OHSR 17.2(b).
- Inspections must be documented, and issues corrected before use.
- Guideline G17.2-2 identifies key inspection items, including:
 - Brakes, tires, steering, and lights.
 - Securing materials, tools, and coupling devices.
 - Emergency equipment, including first aid supplies.

Bottom Line:

If an employer arranges transportation under OHSR 17.01, it must be inspected, safe, and operated by competent drivers — including personal vehicles.

Resources:

[Road Safety at Work-Template](#)
[WSBC-OHSR Part 17](#)

Need help?

A Regional Safety Advisor is available at no cost to advise you.

Contact us at: rsa@bccsa.ca or [Regional Safety Advisors](#).