

## Policies regarding weapons on buses

Information compiled January 4, 2005

**The Question:** This member is considering changing their policy on weapons allowed on their bus to a more restrictive policy. Their questions are:

- Do you have a policy prohibiting weapons from being carried on your bus?
- What does it prohibit?
- How do you inform your customers regarding the policy?
- What action or actions can the operator take if the customer comes on board with a prohibited weapon?

If you have a written policy, please ask your human resources director to upload the policy into the "transit policies" section of the WSTIP website under your agency name.

**Clallam Transit** says ... The Clallam Transit weapons policy has been in place over 20 years (it might be time for review) and it is included in the employee manual. It reads:

"It is a strict violation for any CTS employee to carry Mace, gun, or any kind of weapon on their person, on the bus or on the property of CTS. An employee doing so is subject to discharge. Passengers carrying weapons or sharp instruments, unless completely sheathed or broken down, are not permitted on the bus. An operator may require weapons or potentially hazardous materials be left in the front of the bus under the control of the operator."

The operators inform the passengers of the policy when needed and are taught to do so during training. When a customer attempts to board with a prohibited weapon, the operator take it under their control, refuse service, or ask for law enforcement assistance.

**Grays Harbor Transit** says ... The only policy we have for customers if posted with our rules of conduct on the bus which prohibits weapons on the bus other than allowed by law. The following is our employee policy if you would like to post it.

### **Weapon Policy**

In order to ensure a safe environment for employees and customers, GHT prohibits the wearing, transporting, storage, or presence of firearms or other dangerous weapons in our facilities or on our property, including vehicles. Any employee in possession of a firearm or other weapon within our facilities, property, or vehicles or while otherwise fulfilling job responsibilities may face disciplinary action including termination. Possession of a valid concealed weapons permit authorized by the state of Washington is **not** an exemption under this policy. To the extent allowed by law, our company prohibits clients or visitors from carrying weapons in our facilities or on our property.

Firearms or other dangerous weapons including but not limited to:

- Any device from which a projectile may be fired by an explosive
- Any simulated firearm operated by gas or compressed air
- Sling shot
- Sand club
- Metal knuckles
- Any spring blade knife
- Any knife which opens or is ejected open by an outward, downward thrust movement
- Any instrument that is used as a club and causes injury

Management should be notified immediately if any staff member, client or visitor is found with a firearm or other dangerous weapon in violation with this policy. Local law enforcement will be called promptly, if necessary, to help handle a situation. **This policy does not apply to any law enforcement personnel engaged in official duties.**

**Kitsap Transit** says ... We follow the state law regarding weapons. If the operator sees a weapon, the police is contacted. They then ask for a concealed weapon's permit. If none, it becomes a police problem. If there is a permit, the person is required to keep it out of sight. We allow no weapons of any kind (guns, knives, brass knuckles, mace) to be carried by any employee, anywhere on agency property.

**Intercity Transit** says ... Our "Rules of Conduct" prohibits weapons on our coaches and transit centers. This policy was adopted by Intercity Transit's Board. Weapons prohibited are basically guns and knives.

Public information is posted on the vehicles, at the transit centers and in our transit guides. The posted information only contains highlights of the multi-page document but does outline the most important prohibitions.

**Island Transit** says ... We have the no weapons policy in our schedules. We have not had anyone, to my knowledge; try to carry a weapon on the bus. If an Operator happened to notice a passenger with any weapon try to get on the bus, they would simply tell them the policy. If they had a problem with that, ICOM and a supervisor would be notified. From our Rules of Conduct for Transit Vehicles, Facilities and Properties:

Carrying, exhibiting, displaying, or drawing any dagger, sword, knife, or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests as an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons, unless otherwise authorized by law (RCW 9.41.270).

**Mason Transit** says ... MTA does not have a "formal" written policy. We simply do not allow weapons, legal or not, aboard our vehicles, and we publish such under the "Bus Manners" section of our service schedule.

That particular section reads....

All weapons and/or ammunition (legal or not) are not allowed on MTA. It is also illegal to carry on MTA any hazardous materials, including corrosives (batteries), fireworks, flammable liquids, explosive materials, uncovered glass, or potentially sharp/breakable objects.

Our operators have the right to refuse transportation to anyone if the operator observes that any of the above listed items are in the possession of anyone boarding.

**Pullman Transit** says ... Pullman does not allow weapons on the bus, unless it is a student participating in ROTC and I can't remember the last time that occurred. The practice rifle must be in a case if it is brought on the bus.

**Skagit Transit** says ... see our policy in the transit policies section of the website.

**Spokane Transit** says ... While we have signs on our coaches that say "Weapons not allowed" The truth is, if the passenger is lawfully in possession of the weapon, and he/she is not in violation of RCW 9.41.270 it is permissible pursuant to our "Rules of Conduct".

**Twin Transit** says ... We do not have a formal policy on weapons on buses, and are in fact, in the process of developing a formal policy.