AIS-204

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY STANDARD

Requirements for School Vans

PRINTED BY
THE AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
P.B. NO. 832, PUNE 411 004

ON BEHALF OF
AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

UNDER
CENTRAL MOTOR VEHICLE RULES – TECHNICAL STANDING COMMITTEE

SET-UP BY
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT and HIGHWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

January 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Government of India felt the need for a permanent agency to expedite the publication of standards and development of test facilities in parallel when the work on the preparation of the standards is going on, as the development of improved safety critical parts can be undertaken only after the publication of the standard and commissioning of test facilities. To this end, erstwhile the Ministry of Surface Transport (MOST) has constituted a permanent Automotive Industry Standard Committee (AISC) vide order No. RT-11028/11/97-MVL dated September 15, 1997. The standards prepared by AISC will be approved by the permanent CMVR Technical Standing Committee (CTSC). After approval, the Automotive Research Association of India, (ARAI), Pune, being the secretariat of the AIS Committee, has published this standard. For better dissemination of this information ARAI may publish this document on their Web site.

In 61st meeting of CMVR-TSC held on 17th May 2023, need for formulation of AIS standard on School Vans for enhancing transport safety of school going children was highlighted.

There is no specific UN Regulation on the subject of School Vans. AISC panel on School Bus formulated this standard covering the type approval requirements for School Vans covering four wheeled passenger vehicles below 3.5 tonnes, after appropriately referring established standard AIS-063: Requirements for School Bus.

This standard cover requirement related to identification including insignia, emergency exits, vehicle entry, seat design including storage rack clarity as well as interior protection, fire protection requirements such as fire extinguisher with fire alarm requirements and vehicle location tracking requirement.

The compositions of AISC panel and Automotive Industry Standards Committee (AISC) are as per Annexure B and C respectively.

Requirements for School Vans

Requirements for School Vans

1.0 SCOPE

This standard lays down specific requirements for type approval of School Vans over and above the requirements laid for these vehicle types under CMVR. The standard shall apply to School Vans having a maximum Gross Vehicle weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes meant for transporting school children to and from school. These additional requirements are being laid down for the following reasons.

(i) To maximize safety and minimize severity of injuries.

(ii) To take care of specific needs related to school going children.

2.0 DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions shall apply.

2.1 "**School Van**" means vehicles derived from type approved four wheeled vehicles of following categories:

(i) L7-M category as defined under IS 14272:2011, as amended from time to time;

(ii) M1 category as defined under IS 14272:2011, as amended from time to time; and

(iii) Vehicle category M2* with GVW upto 3.5 ton with type approved seating capacity upto 12 adult passengers in addition to the driver. M2 category vehicles beyond 3.5 T GVW shall comply with requirements stipulated in AIS-063 as amended from time to time.

* Explanation: Wherever M2 category is mentioned in this standard, it needs to be considered as School Van of category M2* as specified in (iii) in this paragraph.

2.2 **'Stop signal'** is a means to indicate halted School Van by operating hazard warning signal.

2.3 **'Speed governor'** speed limiting device as defined in AIS-018:2001, used to limit the maximum road speed for vehicles to a specified value without affecting the other performance parameters of the vehicle in any manner.

2.4 **'Retracting step'** is a step used for entry into School Van, but when not in use can be retracted inward and upward to enable normal operation of the School Van.

2.5 '**School Van insignia'** is the symbol to be imprinted on the School Van. This is used internationally as a symbol for safer transport of school going children (Refer Figure 1).

2.6 **'Service Door'** means a door intended for use by school children in the normal circumstances.

2.7 **'Emergency Exit'** means an emergency door, emergency window or escape hatch. In case of School Vans service door shall be considered as emergency exit.

2.8 **'Emergency Door'** means a door intended for use as an exit by school children in an emergency only.

2.9 **'Emergency Window'** means a window, intended for use as an exit by school children in an emergency only.

3.0 REQUIREMENTS:

3.1 **Identification**:

3.1.1 All School Vans shall have an external colour of `Golden Yellow'. For school identification, a band of 150mm ±10 mm wide of `Golden Brown' colour shall be provided on both longitudinal sides of the Van below the window level.

3.1.2 **Insignia Location**

The 'School Van Insignia' shall be either of square or circular in shape with dimension of 350 x 350 mm or 350 mm diameter and a back drop of golden yellow colour with the symbol in black colour. The template is shown in Figure 1. This shall be provided on the outer surface of the School Van in a visible location on the front and the rear.

In case, if it is not possible to accommodate insignia of size 350 x 350 mm or 350 mm diameter, size can be reduced to 200 x 200 mm or 200 mm diameter.

3.2 **Emergency Exits**:

3.2.1 Position and Number of Emergency Exits: All School Vans shall have at least one emergency exit on the opposite side of the service door or rear side of the School Van. Vehicle Manufacturers/Body Builders may provide additional emergency exit(s) in School Van.

Right side doors (other than driver door) may not be openable from inside during normal operation but in case of emergency it shall be openable from outside.

3.2.2 **Passenger Safety**: Whenever the School Van passenger door or emergency Exit/door opens, the driver of the School Van must get the indication of the same through a buzzer. The emergency doors/ exit shall be kept closed in the normal condition.

3.3 **Vehicle Entry**: The lowest footstep height shall not be more than 300 mm from the ground and the School Van may be provided with folding or retracting steps and if provided, the driver of the School Van shall get the indication of the same through a flashing light or buzzer or suitable means while attempting to start the vehicle without folding or retracting the steps." Retracting step if not in use shall be retracted inward and upward to enable normal operation of the School Van. In case of vehicles entry is more than 300 mm, step may be provided to meet 300 mm requirement facilitating student entry and egress from vehicle.

3.4 **Seat Design**:

3.4.1 Interior Protection:

3.4.1.1 All parts in Head Room (Free height over seating position) shall have a radius of not less than 2.5 mm. In addition, School Vans shall meet the requirements of interior fittings as specified in relevant applicable IS:15223:2023 or AIS-047, as amended from time to time.

3.4.1.2 All parts in occupant area other than Head Room (Free height over seating position) shall have a radius not less than 25mm. Alternatively its shore hardness shall not be more than 20 Shore A hardness.

3.4.2 Storage Racks:

3.4.2.1 Storage racks of 300 mm minimum depth to be provided beneath all passenger seats, except the seats mounted above any tyre humps and last row of seat. In case, if it is not possible to accommodate storage space below passenger seats, storage space may be as defined by manufacturer. No Roof luggage carriers shall be provided on any type of School Van.

3.4.3 Seat Layout: Seat(s) may be forward or rearward or side facing provided it/they should not face the door. Alternatively, a partition which prevents the child from falling can be provided. Retesting shall be conducted in case of changes in approved seating layout.

3.4.4 Seat Dimensions: Every seating position for school children shall be at least 265 mm in width and 350 mm in depth.

3.4.5 For deciding student seating capacity of School Van following criterion shall be used

(i) Student seating capacity of School Van shall be same as type approved seating capacity of base vehicle.

(ii) GVW of the School Van shall be same as that of its base vehicle meant for carrying adult passengers in addition to the driver and type approved payload shall remain unchanged.

(iii) Seating capacity of School Van shall not exceed 12+D.

3.4.6 **Seat strength and seat anchorage tests:** Seats for School Van shall comply with following requirements

a) For School Van of category M1: As per clause No. 5.2 and 5.3 of IS 15546-2005.

b) For School Van of categories L7-M and M2 with GVW up to 3.5 tones: As per clause No. 4.4.3, 4.5.2 and 4.5.3 of AIS-023:2005, as amended from time to time.

3.5 Stopping Signal: Whenever the passenger door opens, the hazard warning shall operate manually or automatically.

3.6 Speed Governor:

A speed governor complying with the requirements of Rule 118 of CMV(A)R 1989, which prevents driver from speeding beyond the speed limits set by the latest Central Government Notification shall be provided. School Vans shall comply speed limit / speed limiting function requirement of 60 km/h. Speed limit below 60 km/h shall be permitted, if stipulated by the State Government.

3.7 The requirements of destination board mentioned in Chapter 2 AIS-052 (Rev.1) at clause No. 2.2.15 is optional for School Vans.

3.8 Minimum number of service doors for School Vans shall be one. Only left side door or rear door shall be treated as services doors. Service door may be deemed as emergency exit.

3.8.1 Hand rails and / or hand holds fitted in L7-M and M2 Category of School Vans shall meet requirements of AIS-046 as amended from time to time. They shall be designed and installed as to present no risk of injury to occupant.

3.9 Fire protection requirements shall be as follows:

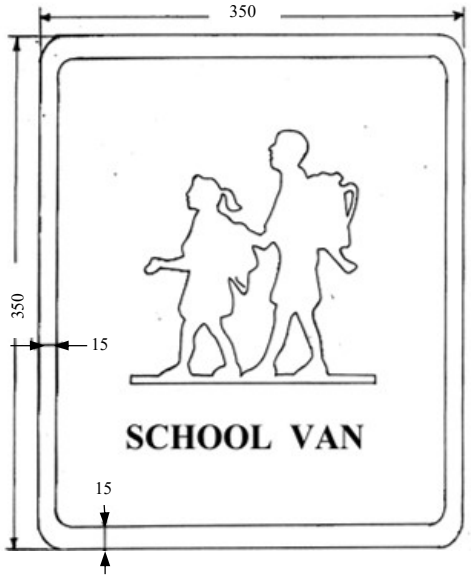
All School Vans shall be provided with minimum one number of dry chemical powder type or CO_2 type fire extinguisher of 1kg such that it shall be easily accessible to all the occupants. At the choice of manufacturer, optionally more numbers of fire extinguishers may be provided. Location of such fire extinguisher shall be such that, it shall not cause injury to driver or occupants in their normal operation during their entry and egress from vehicle.

Additionally, Fire Detection and Alarm System (FDAS) meeting the requirements of AIS-135:2016 shall be provided.

3.10 Requirements for panic button / Vehicle Tracking Devices (VTD). All School Vans shall be equipped with vehicle location tracking device and one or more emergency buttons in accordance with AIS-140: 2016 as amended from time to time.

3.11 Provisions for Adapted Vehicles: At the choice of manufacturer, provisions for Adapted Vehicles for use by person with disability in accordance with AIS-169 as amended from time to time, may also be provided.

4.0 The technical specification for School Van requirements related parameters to be submitted by the Manufacturers as per Annexure-A.



Dimensions in mm
Figure not to the scale

Figure 1 - School Van Insignia
(See Para. 3.1.2)

ANNEXURE A

(See clause 4.0)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION OF SCHOOL VAN REQUIREMENTS RELATED PARAMETERS TO BE SUBMITTED BY MANUFACTURER

Sr. No.	Parameters	To be submitted by manufacturer
1.0	School Van colour	
1.1	Width of Golden-brown band and its Height from Ground Level (mm)	
2.0	School Van Insignia	
2.1	Dimension	
2.2	Location at Front and at Rear	
3.0	Emergency Exits	
3.1	No. of Emergency Exits	
3.2	Emergency Exit type (Window/Door)	
3.3	Position of Emergency Exit	
3.4	Dimension of Emergency Exit (mm)	
4.0	Vehicle Entry Steps	
4.1	Height of First/Lowest Footstep from Ground Level (mm)	
4.2	Height of other steps (if provided) from Ground Level (mm)	
4.3	Depth of step (mm)	
4.4	Folding or Retracting steps (Provided/Not Provided)	
4.4.1	if provided, its indication through a Buzzer/Flashing light to the driver	
5.0	Service Doors	
5.1	Whether operated manually	

Sr. No.	Parameters	To be submitted by manufacturer
6.0	Interior Protection AIS-047 / IS 15223 compliance (Yes/ No.)	
7.0	Storage Racks (if provided)	
7.1	Location	
7.2	Depth (mm)	
8.0	Seats	
8.1	Total Student seating capacity	
8.2	Seat Dimension (per child) (Width x Depth) mm	
9.0	Stop Signal Sign	
10.0	Passenger Safety	
10.1	Provision of flashing light and buzzer or suitable means in case of door/Emergency door is open	
11.0	Provision of speed limiting facility as per Rule 118 of CMV Rules, 1989.	

Manufacturer :	Document No :	Test Agency :	Cert No :
Signature		Signature	
		Name	
Name	Sheet No	Designation	
Designation	Date	Date of Issue	

ANNEXURE B

(See Introduction)

COMPOSITION OF AISC PANEL*

Automotive Industry Standards Sub Committee on School Van

Panel convener	**Representing**
Mr. S. N. Dhole	Central Institute of Road Transport
Members	
Mr. Vikram Tandon	The Automotive Research Association of India
Mr. Vishal P. Rawal	The Automotive Research Association of India
Mr. Rohit Yadav	International Centre for Automotive Technology
Mr. Faustino V.	SIAM (Ashok Leyland Ltd.)
Mr. Ved Prakash Gautam	SIAM (Ashok Leyland Ltd.)
Mr. Arvind Kumbhar	SIAM (Bajaj Auto Ltd.)
Mr. Adish Aggarwal	SIAM (Bajaj Auto Ltd.)
Mr. Abhay Kumar	SIAM (Bajaj Auto Ltd.)
Mr. Arun Joy Kurian	SIAM (Daimler India Commercial Vehicle Pvt. Ltd.)
Mr. Girish S. Kodolikar	SIAM (Force Motors Ltd.)
Mr. Sandeep Amodkar	SIAM (Force Motors Ltd.)
Mr. V. G. Kulkarni	SIAM (Mahindra Truck & Bus Division)
Ms. Pushpanjali Pathak	SIAM (Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.)
Mr. Gururaj Ravi	SIAM (Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.)
Mr. Raj Kumar Dwivedi	SIAM (Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.)
Mr. Chandran Manoj Prabagar	SIAM (Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.)
Mr. Venkata Girish Chandh Chakirala	SIAM (RNTBCI)
Mr. P. S. Gowrishankar	SIAM (Tata Motors Ltd.)
Mr. Pridhvi Raju Vatsavayi	SIAM (Tata Motors Ltd.)
Mr. Sharad S. Bhole	SIAM (Tata Motors Ltd.)
Mr. D. S. Patil	SIAM (Tata Motors Ltd.)
Mr. Vijeth Gatty	SIAM (Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.)
Mr. Pavan V	SIAM (Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.)

Mr. Raju M	SIAM (Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.)
Mr. Kiran T. N.	SIAM (Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.)
Mr. Swapnil Tambe	M/s Pinnacle Mobility Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Ganesh Virape	M/s Pinnacle Mobility Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Anil Garg	School Bus Owners Association
Mr. Ramesh Manion	School Bus Owners Association
Mr. Prasanna Patwardhan	BOCI
Mr. H. N. Patil	Prasanna Purple
Mr. Sanjay Tank	ACMA
Mr. Sivakumar Sudhachandran	Autoliv India Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Boobalan Natarajan	Autoliv India Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. G Devendran	ACMA (Brakes India Ltd.)
Mr. S Murugesan	ACMA (Brakes India Ltd.)
Mr. Swapnil Tambe	M/s Pinnacle Mobility Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Jayesh Shah	Rtd. Gujrat RTO
Mr. Xavier Gomes	The Galaxy Education System (TGES School)

* At the time of approval of this Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)

ANNEXURE C
(See Introduction)

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION *

Automotive Industry Standards Committee

Chairperson	
Dr. Reji Mathai	Director, The Automotive Research Association of India
Members	**Representing**
Representative from	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Representative from	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Representative from	Office of the Development Commissioner, MSME, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Shri Shrikant R. Marathe	Former Chairman, AISC
Head TED	Bureau of Indian Standards
Director	Central Institute of Road Transport
Director	Global Automotive Research Centre
Director	International Centre for Automotive Technology
Director	Indian Institute of Petroleum
Director	Vehicles Research and Development Establishment
Director	Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association
Representatives from	Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers
Representative from	Tractor and Mechanization Association
Representative from	Automotive Components Manufacturers Association of India
Representative from	Indian Construction Equipment Manufactures' Association
Member Secretary	
Shri Vikram Tandon	The Automotive Research Association of India

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