

ABC WINTER FLEET READINESS CHECKLIST



Be Road-Ready in Cold Weather

Cold temperatures, icy roads, and unpredictable conditions demand extra vigilance. This Winter Checklist helps you maintain fleet reliability, reduce breakdown risks, and ensure passenger comfort throughout the season.

Let ABC Companies' service network help your fleet to operate at peak performance all winter long.

WINTER CHECKLIST

Vehicle Exterior & Body Inspection

For buses that operate on treated winter roads, a regular, thorough exterior cleaning is crucial to prevent corrosion from road salt and chemicals. A thorough flushing procedure should be performed immediately after the winter season ends, with routine washes and flushing throughout the winter months. The condenser, radiator, and charge air cooler (CAC) can become clogged with road grime, salt, and sand, which restricts airflow, can cause corrosion, and reduce cooling efficiency.

- ☐ **Inspect & clean windshield & windows:**
Check for leaks, chips, cracks, and fogging; replace damaged glass.
- ☐ **Verify defrosters & window and mirror heater operation:**
Ensure full visibility in cold or snowy conditions.
- ☐ **Replace regular wiper blades with winter-grade versions:**
Designed for ice and snow.
- ☐ **Refill washer fluid with winter-rated solution:**
Prevent freezing in low temperatures.
- ☐ **Inspect all exterior lighting:**
Headlights, marker lights, fog lights, brake lights, back-up lights and turn signals.

VEHICLE EXTERIOR & BODY INSPECTION (CONTINUED)

- ☐ **Check body panels & wraps: Look for corrosion, road salt damage, or peeling.**
- ☐ **Perform under-body inspection and apply rust-prevention treatment**
Especially for undercarriage frame members and wheel wells.
- ☐ **Ensure that weep holes are at the bottom of convex mirrors to prevent water build-up, freezing, and breakage.**

HVAC SYSTEM & CABIN COMFORT

- ☐ **Test cabin heating system:**
Confirm modulation and consistent warmth across zones.
- ☐ **Replace HVAC filters:**
Ensure evaporators and heater cores are clear of dust and debris so that the environment in the coach has clean airflow and heating efficiency.
- ☐ **Check blower motors & fan speeds:**
Confirm airflow strength.
- ☐ **Inspect rooftop units & defroster vents:**
test air circulation.
- ☐ **Service auxiliary heaters (if equipped):**
Verify functionality for extreme cold.

TIRES & WHEELS

- ☐ **Inspect tire tread depth & tread type**
Consider winter-specific tires.



TIRES & WHEELS ^(CONTINUED)



- ☐ **Check tires for degradation and wear**
Look for sidewall cracking or weathering. Verify tire age. Locate the Tire Identification Number (TIN) on the sidewall of the tire, which usually starts with "DOT". The last four digits of the TIN represent the week and year the tire was manufactured. Many operators replace tires that are 6 years old or older, regardless of treadwear or appearance.
- ☐ **Verify tire load capacity and tire air pressure**
Cold weather lowers PSI—adjust accordingly.
- ☐ **Rotate tires if uneven wear is detected.**
- ☐ **Ensure proper alignment & balancing**
- ☐ **Verify Auto Tire Inflation System (if equipped)**
Confirm system functionality for consistent tire pressure.
- ☐ **Test Auto Tire Inflation System (if equipped)**
Confirm calibration in colder temperatures.

ELECTRICAL & BATTERY HEALTH

- ☐ **Check battery voltage, Alternator Output, and cold cranking amps (CCA). Replace weak batteries.**
- ☐ **Inspect battery terminals for corrosion:**
Clean & apply anti-corrosion protectant.
- ☐ **Check batteries for parasitic draw and ensure that batteries are completely isolated:**
This is particularly important when the bus is not exercised every few days to ensure that the batteries maintain a full charge
- ☐ **Check onboard electronics for malfunctions.**

ENGINE & COOLING SYSTEM

- ☐ **Test block heaters (if equipped):**
Ensure effective cold weather starts.
- ☐ **Perform annual service on coolant heaters:**
Espar/Proheat etc.
- ☐ **Inspect coolant-protection level/specific gravity:**
Use antifreeze that meets the specifications of the engine manufacturer and bus.
Usually, the spec. can be found on the surge tank.
- ☐ **Check belts, hoses & clamps:**
Cold weather may cause them to dry, become brittle, crack and fail.
- ☐ **Verify with OEM recommendations regarding possible use of winter-grade viscosity engine oil for severe cold conditions.**

BRAKE SYSTEM & SUSPENSION

- ☐ **Inspect brake pads, rotors & calipers for excessive corrosion. Make sure calipers move smoothly and are not dragging.**
- ☐ **For hydraulic brake-equipped buses, flush brake fluid if due for service**
- ☐ **Clean & lubricate brake treadle valve:**
Clean frequently to prevent corrosion from forming as a result of corrosive moisture introduced from shoes contaminated with salt-treated parking lots and sidewalks.
- ☐ **Test ABS functionality:**
Ensure system activates properly.
- ☐ **Check suspension components for cold-induced air leaks or wear.**
- ☐ **Inspect shocks for smooth operation over icy or bumpy roads.**

IN-SERVICE RELIABILITY & RIDER COMFORT

- ☐ **Ensure charge ports for cellular phones and emergency communications equipment are in working order.**
- ☐ **Inspect seat belts & buckles for stiffness or damage.**
- ☐ **Test emergency exits & escape hatches:**
Ensure they are not frozen shut.
- ☐ **Check interior lights & emergency lighting.**
- ☐ **Clean & disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly.**
- ☐ **Ensure HVAC system operates flawlessly and provides comfortable passenger experience.**
- ☐ **Stock winter safety kits:**
Include blankets, ice scrapers, emergency reflectors, and flares.

FLEET TECHNOLOGY & TELEMATICS SYSTEMS

- ☐ **Verify ABC Connect Telematics System:**
Ensure real-time diagnostics remain active in cold weather.
- ☐ **Test Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS):**
Cold temperatures can impact sensors.
- ☐ **Check Wheel-End Monitoring System:**
Prevent cold-related sensor malfunctions.
- ☐ **Update onboard software & GPS mapping.**
- ☐ **Inspect mirrorless camera systems (if equipped):**
Remove ice buildup; test clarity.
- ☐ **Confirm Starlink Wi-Fi connectivity (if installed).**



PREVENT DOWNTIME & INCREASE RELIABILITY

- ✓ Prevent cold-weather failures with regular inspections
- ✓ Stay road-ready with tire, brake, and lighting checks.
- ✓ Ensure cabin warmth and defogging systems work correctly
- ✓ Maintain fleet uptime with proactive battery and fluid maintenance



Ready to Winterize?

Let our mobile and onsite service teams help you prep your fleet today.

Stay ahead of the busy season

Schedule service today!

877-936-5528

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