

# Measures Taken After the Karuizawa Ski Bus Accident

In the Karuizawa ski bus accident that took place on January 15, 2016, 13 people lost their lives. "Comprehensive measures to achieve a safe and secure chartered bus driving" was made in June of the same year with a strong determination that such tragic accident should not be caused again.



## Comprehensive Measures to Achieve a Safe and Secure Chartered Bus Driving

Immediately after the accident, a countermeasure headquarter was set up in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for which the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport acts as the General Manager. This headquarter examined the complete recurrence prevention measures so that emergency response, such as implementing special audit, is possible and such tragic accident does not take place again. "Investigative commission of measures for Karuizawa sky bus accident" was held and this investigative commission included expert people. Comprehensive measures were taken on June 3 of the same year.

[Contents of the measures]

- j Reinforcement of matters to be observed by the chartered bus operator and operation manager
- ⋈ Early stage correction of the legal violation, exclusion of the incompetent person
- l Improvement of effectiveness of the inspection
- Ⓜ Reinforcement the relations to travel agents and users etc.
- Ⓝ Promotion to prevent accidents by safety measures for the hard infrastructure

## Outline of the Road Transportation Act Amendment

Among the comprehensive measures, the amendment of the Road Transport Law, including the introduction of the renewal system of the chartered bus business license, which requires legal action, was passed unanimously in an extraordinary session of the Diet in 2016, and has been sequentially enacted from December 20 of the same year. The Road Transportation Act that contains these provisions was amended in extraordinary session of the Diet of 2016. It was passed and approved by unanimous vote and sequentially enacted from December 20 of the same year.

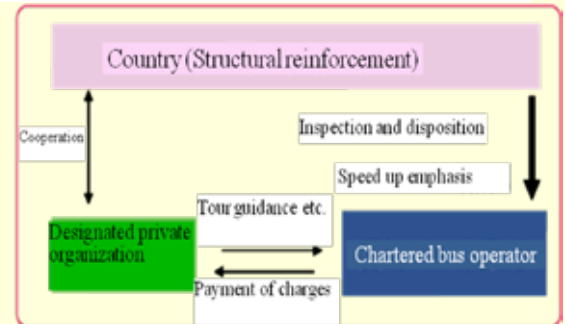
j Introduction of renewal system of the business license

- ▶ Every 5 years, it is checked whether the chartered bus operator has the ability to safely run the business.

Examination Item	At the time of new license (up to now)	At the time of new license (After review)	At the time of license renewal (After review)	At the time of inspection
Business domain, Business office, fleet vehicle, garage etc.	○	○	※1	○
Operation manager, development manager, driver	○	○	※1	○
Financial plan (Start-up fund)	○	○	—	×
Safety investment plan and Business balance Estimation Sheet	×	○	○	※2
Compliance with laws and regulations	○	○	○	○
Ability to compensate damages	○	○	※1	○

○1 Confirm the portions for which examination of "Safety Investment Plan" and "Balance Estimation Sheet" is required.

○2 Based on the confirmation result of the law compliance situation placed in the investigation, confirm if required



### κ Inhibition of reemergence/disposition escape of the incompetent person

#### ▶ Regarding the business license ,

- Extension of the rejection period (At present: 2 years ⇒ After amendment: 5 years)
- Restrict joining of the organizations such as subsidiary firms of the companies whose license is cancelled or businessman who have closed the business after inspection to escape the disposition.

#### ▶ Regarding issue of qualification card to the Operations Manager<sup>(○)</sup>

- Extension of the rejection period (At present: 2 years ⇒ After amendment: 5 years)

(○) Person who is in-charge of personnel management of the crew members and operation management of daily inspection of the vehicle

#### ▶ Prior notice of 30 days before closing the business (At present: Post notification system)

### l Promotion of supplementation and autonomous improvement of inspection function

- ▶ For tour guidance to the chartered bus operators by designated private organizations, system was established over collection of the charges from the chartered bus operator by the concerned organization.

### m Reinforcement of the penalty

- ▶ Reinforcement of statutory penalty against the bus operators who have not obeyed the safety securing orders of transportation, establishment of legal heavy punishment

(At present: Penalty of 1 million Yen or less (Person who violates the law or Corporation) ⇒ After amendment: Imprisonment of 1 year/ penalty of 1.5 million Yen or less (Person who violates the law), penalty of 100 million Yen or less (Corporation)

## Execution Situation of Comprehensive Measures

The recurrence prevention measures included in the comprehensive measures which are executable are being executed promptly. Till March 31, 2017, 80 items among the 85 items of comprehensive measures have been initiated such as disposal standards at the time of inspection being made strict, a report window is set up to prevent falling below the lower limit.

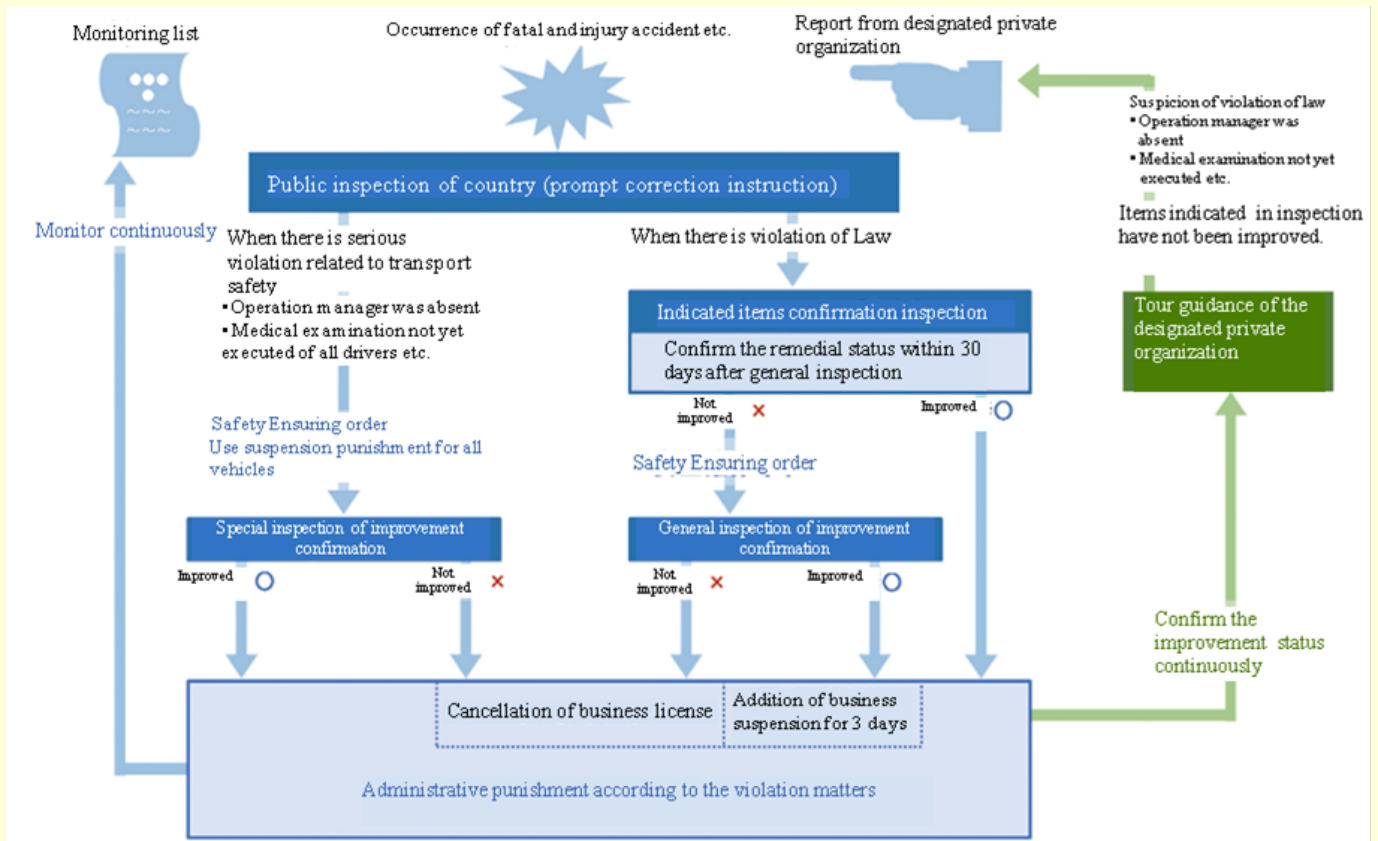
Specifically, with regard to the inspection of chartered bus operators, following measures are being executed to improve the effectively.

Comprehensive measures		Main implementation items	Total: 80/85 items Already started
(1) Strengthening of compliance requirements of chartered bus operator, operation manager	26/27 items Already started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of guidance and supervision for newly appointed drivers</li> <li>Video recording and mandatory storage with the help of drive recorder</li> <li>Strengthening of eligibility requirements for operation manager</li> <li>Raising the number of necessary appointments of operation manager</li> <li>Mandatory roll call in the middle of driving during night and long-distance service</li> <li>Mandatory installation of seat-belt to auxiliary seat</li> </ul>	
(2) Prompt correction of legal violations, exclusion of ineligible person	21/21 items Already started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of suspension of certificate after confirmation within 30 days after corrective instructions for legal violation</li> <li>Suspension of business and cancellation of business license that does not correct legal violation over multiple times</li> <li>Increase in determination of judgement related to transportation safety</li> <li>Increase in rate of vehicles which are stopped from wing</li> <li>Introduction of business license suspension (single cancellation) in which violation or severity of accident are considered</li> <li>Criteria for administrative measures for operation manager</li> <li>Introduction to business license renewal system safe investment plan, mandatory possession of business license and expenditure estimate</li> <li>Enforcement of penalistic guideline for a person who has violated the safety instructions of transportation</li> <li>Expansion of disqualification of business license, competence of operation manager and competence of maintenance manager</li> </ul>	
(3) Improvement in effectiveness of supervision	8/10 items Already started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritization of audit by the audit agency</li> </ul>	
(4) Strengthening the relation between travel agencies and user	19/20 items Already started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of contact office for prevention of fare falling below the lower limit</li> <li>Installation of third party committee related to commission by joining the travel agencies and chartered bus industries</li> <li>Mandatory submission of safety information report to the country</li> </ul>	
(5) Promotion of accident prevention depending on safety measures of hard surface	14/15 items Already started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of research and development of driver response system at the time of abnormality</li> <li>ASV mounting status display of vehicle body</li> <li>Reinforcement of structure of vehicle body</li> <li>Introduction support such as digital tachographs</li> </ul>	

► If violation of law is found, immediately correction is instructed and re-investigation within 30 days is carried out to confirm condition of the correction

► Strict disciplinary action is taken including cancellation of business license for the business person who does not correct/improve the indicated items for a multiple times

► Malicious business person is identified by tour guidance of the organization implementing the optimization and an emphasis is laid on the investigation target of the country



As a country or as the parties concerned such as chartered bus operator, it is extremely important to steadily execute the items included in the "Comprehensive measures" for ensuring safe and secure operation of the chartered bus. Steady follow-up of these comprehensive measures is taken and thorough efforts are taken for recurrence prevention.