

Law Num. 22 - Vehicle and Transit Law of Puerto Rico

The New Vehicle and Traffic Law 22 of Puerto Rico of January 7, 2000, and its amendments is probably the most important legislation, since it affects the lives and routine activities of the population of PR. In the exhibition of reasons of this law, quotes that “between the most important obligations of the modern State those are included to promote and to guard by the public security in all their variants, to simplify and to make agile the managements of the citizens in their daily contact with the governmental organisms, and to maintain to the day with the last scientific and technological advances those laws and regulations that have greater impact on the daily activities of the town. Doubtlessly, little legislation it affects so much the lives and daily activities of the citizens like whom it regulates the transit to vehicular by the public routes of the Island.”

This article concentrates on two specific elements that are the ones that most affects the lives of the citizens; fines and dispositions related to truck-driver (driver) driving under the effects of alcohol and the responsibility of the vehicles' owner.

According to the article published by a local newspaper, *El Nuevo Día*, on the September 8, 2004, issue, Colonel Leovigildo Vázquez Bonilla, Auxiliary Superintendent for Transit, explained that the detention of an offender to the dispositions related to alcohol in the new vehicles and traffic law, involves automatically prison. Colonel Vázquez indicated that the amendments to Law 22 of Vehicles and Traffic remained essentially equal, with actionable charges and punishment. He also affirmed that before a driver complies a period of time in prison, the driver has to be declared guilty beyond any reasonable doubt. The person is arrested and is conducted to the Police headquarters, it will be determined if is submitted to the breath test or blood test, to establish the content of alcohol in the organism.

If the person is convicted for driving under the influence of alcohol, that is 0.08% for drivers in private vehicles, 0.02% for buses, heavy trucks and school bus drivers, and 0.0% for the drivers between 16 and 18 years, they will receive a fine between \$300 and \$500. In the case that the driver is accompanied by a 15 year old or younger smaller adolescent, they will receive an additional fine of \$500.00 and would be sentenced to prison for 48 hours and in case of serious damage to the adolescent, the driver license will be suspended for a period of 2 to 7 years. To transport open containers with alcoholic beverages in the cabins of the vehicles is prohibited. The law that came in effect past September, 3, 2004, establishes more severe penalties for subsequent convictions and even vehicle confiscation.





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- Be a trouble-shooter. When you run into a problem, try to think of at least two solutions before you take that problem to your boss. It shows that you're a thinker and problem-solver, as well as a doer.
- When correcting an employee, don't use the following words: "always", "never", "ever", "perpetually".
- Consider communicating to coworkers that you have a "no-surprise" rule. Make withholding bad news the worst thing that a colleague can do.
- Try this simple tip to help you project a good first impression: Notice the color of a person's eyes as you shake hands. Why it works: You'll gain strong eye contact in a way that shows you're interested in what the person has to say.
- Volunteer for the tough jobs that no one else wants. It may be risky, but if you do them well, you'll become known as a "can-do" person.
- Deflect minor interruptions when you're on a tight deadline with this approach: "I'd like to give you a hand, but I'm on a major project with a tight deadline. If 10 minutes of my time would help, come back at 4:45 and we'll talk."

Col. Vázquez explained that in the past the convicted and the Prosecutor's office could negotiate to reduce the limits from a 0.20% between 0.08% and a 0.10%, to give the person the alternative to attend a course of improvement for drunk drivers. This law eliminates the discretion of the Prosecutor Office to work an agreement to reduce the conviction and give the person the opportunity to be submitted to community work. On the other hand, the driver had the alternative to be submitted to a breath or blood test, while now this decision is made by the official that intervenes with the offender. Any negativity of the driver to any of the regulations, mentioned above, would involve a sentence among 30 and 60 days of prison, and the license suspension for up to two years and in the event that the driver causes any serious harm to another human being, the license could be suspended for up to seven years.

At this time the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico is evaluating Project-898 and at the same time evaluating the amendments to Law 22. For additional information on the law and its amendments you can access www.lexjuris.com , or contact the Traffic Safety Commission at 787-721-4142.

Numbers of Drinks/ Hour f Alcohol %	Brain Damage %	Behavior Effects
(1 to 2 drinks) 0.02% of alcohol	15%	Free of inhibitions Affect good judgment
(3 to 4 drinks) 0.05% of alcohol	30%	Affect coordination Slow reactions
(5 to 7 drinks) 0.10% of alcohol	45%	Affect vision, hearing, speech and balance
(8 to 19 drinks) 0.16% of alcohol	60%	Difficulty to walk Difficulty to maintain standing position
(20 up drinks) 0.40% of alcohol	100%	Coma

Living with Noise...

Noise from highway traffic affects more than 18 million people in the United States according to the most recent data available from 1987.

Sound Basics

- Acousticians define sound as a sensation in the ear created by pressure variations or vibrations in the ear.
- Sound that one person perceives as music may be noise to someone else.
- Sound is composed of many frequencies
- Levels of highway traffic noise typically range from 70-80 dB (A) at a distance of 50 feet from the highway.
- The noise generated by a conversation between two people standing 3 feet apart is usually in the range of 60-65 dB (A).

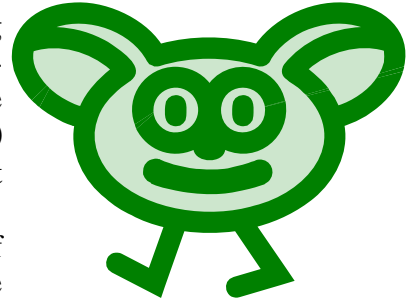
Reducing noise from Highway Traffic

- FHWA recognizes three broad approaches for reducing noise from highway traffic: source control, mitigation measures associated with the design of road projects or their operation, and noise-compatible land-use planning.
- Source control in the United States involves regulating and enforcing the level of noise emissions from newly manufactured medium and heavy trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds. Noise from automobiles is not regulated.
- Constructing a noise barrier is the most common measure employed to mitigate noise associated with highway projects.

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Reducing Noise from Highway Traffic

- Source Control – involves regulating and enforcing the level of noise emissions from newly manufactured medium and heavy trucks with gross vehicle weight of more than 4,525 kilograms (10,000 pounds). Noise from automobiles, however, is not regulated.
- Mitigation measures associated with the design of road projects or their –operation – Depressing the highway (constructing the highway below grade) or moving it farther away from sensitive areas. Constructing a noise barrier or a combination of wall and berm.
- Noise-compatible land-use planning – Aims to guide residential development in such a way that sensitive land-uses are not located adjacent to a highway.



Development Tips

Communities can use the following approaches to encourage noise-compatible land-use planning:

Planning, zoning, or other legal means, such as subdivision or development standards, building codes, health codes, or occupancy permits.

- Municipal controls, including land or easement purchases, or the acceptance of land donations.
- Public education to inform citizens, developers, and planners of the options for structures and land uses that can exist in harmony near a roadway.
- Site planning, architectural design, and construction methods that incorporate acoustical considerations.

A Sound Future

For successful continued growth in urban and suburban areas, highways and new development must be compatible. By sharing the responsibility for addressing the problem of highway traffic noise, municipalities and developers can plan communities to be more livable and achieve a much less expensive alternative to constructing noise barriers as after-the-fact solutions to mitigate highway traffic noise.

Adapted from: Public Roads, FHWA. July/August 2003 Edition



For more information about the seminar program for calendar year 2005 and any other information related to the center's activities please visit our web-site at www.prt2.com

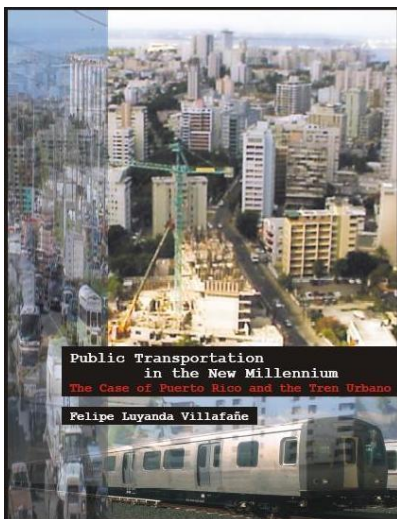
New Designation



After being Co-Director of the Puerto Rico Technology Transfer Center located at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez since 1986, we are announcing that effective March 4, 2005, Dr. Felipe Luyanda will be transferring to the Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The new Puerto Rico Secretary of Transportation, Dr. Gabriel Alcaráz and the Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Highway Transportation Authority, Dr. Jack T. Allison offered Dr. Luyanda a new position in charge of the urban train contract (“Tren Urbano”) and its integration with the other transportation modes in the San Juan Metropolitan Area. This position represents an opportunity to contribute in the success of this new transportation alternative and his experience as Co-Director in the Local Technical Assistance Program will be very valuable in future activities.

New Publication!



*“Public Transportation in the New Millennium:
The Case of Puerto Rico and the Tren Urbano”*

This publication is available at the Tren Urbano Library at the Transportation Technology Transfer Center located at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, in the General Library of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus or directly through the author available at fluyanda@hotmail.com. To obtain a copy of this edition contact us at 787-834-6385 or send an e-mail to ifranco@uprm.edu or gvilla@uprm.edu.

2005 National Work Zone Awareness Week

"Slow Down or Pay Up"

In order to promote safety and mobility through our Nation's Roadway Work Zone, the Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, is sponsoring the National Work Zone Awareness Week from April 3-9 2005. The slogan for this year's activity is Slow Down or Pay Up.



The American Traffic Safety Services Association, ATSSA, has prepared a T-shirt to honor the Men and Women who work on our roadways. Don't forget to get yours!



Buy your T-Shirt from ATSSA today!

For easy ways to order:

1. By phone (800) 272-8772
2. By fax (540) 368 1722
3. Mail order form to ATSSA
4. Order form available online at ATSSA.com

The following journals of the Transportation Research Board, TRB, are available for lending through the Transportation Technology Transfer Center:

Number	Publication
1863	Railroads: High-Speed Passenger Rail, Railway Bridges, and Track Design and Maintenance
1874	Geology and Properties of Earth Materials 2004
1875	Bituminous Binders 2004
1878	Pedestrians and Bicycles; Developing Countries
1880	Energy and Environmental Concerns 2004
1881	Geometric Design and the Effects on Traffic Operations 2004
1882	Transportation Network Modeling 2004

In addition the compact disc of the 2005 annual meeting of the TRB, is available for loan. For additional information, please contact us at 787-834-6385.

FUTURE EVENTS



March 22-24, 2005

*3rd Annual Alaska Tribal Transportation
Symposium, Anchorage, AK*

*Contact: Alaska Tribal Technical
Assistance Program*

E-mail: dmoreno@mail.ewu.edu

Telephone: 800-399-6376

Web-Page: www.cbpa.ewu.edu/~LTAP

March 30– April 1, 2005

*13th Annual Roadway Management
Conference*

Hershey, PA

*Contact: Pennsylvania Local Roads
Program*

E-mail: kferroni@state.pa.us

Telephone: (717) 214-8685

March, 2005

*Hazardous Materials Transportation
Safety Workshop*

Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact: Frank Lisle

E-mail: flisle@nas.edu

April 3-5, 2005

*Southeastern Local Roads Conference
Savannah, GA*

*Contact: Georgia Department of Trans-
portation LTAP Center*

E-mail: dennis.rice@dot.state.ga.us

Telephone: (404) 6546-4664

Weeks and Days to Remember

April, 2005 : Alcohol Awareness Month

April 3-9, 2005: National Awareness Week

April 7, 2005: National Alcohol Screening Day

May 15- May 21, 2005: National Public Works Week

May 15-May 21, 2005: National Transportation Week

The Center's staff welcomes your questions and suggestions. To contact the Center, please send all correspondence to the following address:

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