



## **Store ski equipment safely**

**Taking the bus is a particularly relaxing way to start a skiing holiday. To be sure winter sports enthusiasts arrive in one piece, their equipment and luggage need to be stored as safely as possible. MAN ProfiDrive provides tips for travel companies, drivers and passengers.**

Off to the piste and some fabulous skiing: in many regions, the 2016/17 ski season has already started. Hundreds of thousands of winter sports fans are heading for the mountains. Many of them travel by bus so that they can start enjoying their winter holiday as soon as they arrive. To help passengers reach their destination safely but stay relaxed, bus companies and drivers, particularly those offering skiing holidays, need to be really well-prepared. After all, they are responsible for ensuring that the ski equipment is properly stored. "This means: that skis, snowboards, ski boots and helmets need to be transported on the coach in such a way that, even if it swerves or brakes sharply, no-one will be injured by flying objects," says Rolf Lechner, trainer at MAN ProfiDrive.

Special ski lockers are recommended for transporting skis and snowboards. However, in order for the winter sports equipment to fit into the boxes, it generally only has to be packed in thin protective covers, and any bulky bindings should be removed. Ski bags should only contain skis or snowboards, not other luggage such as boots or clothing. "It is advisable for passengers to check out these requirements in plenty of time so that there aren't any unnecessary delays at departure," says Lechner.

Ski boots, helmets, suitcases and travel bags should be stored in the luggage compartment. "Loading the luggage onto the bus so that it fits together neatly makes it particularly safe. In other words, the luggage space should be completely filled by the individual pieces of luggage, as any gaps, however small, can result in the luggage or the bus being damaged." It is also advisable to specify a maximum luggage weight, as on flights. "Heavy objects should never be stored in the overhead hand

MAN Truck & Bus is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of commercial vehicles and supplier of transport solutions, with revenues of approximately €9 billion a year (2015). The product portfolio includes trucks, buses and diesel engines, as well as services related to passenger and cargo transport. A subsidiary of Volkswagen Truck & Bus GmbH, MAN Truck & Bus employs more than 35,500 people worldwide.

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luggage compartments. If the bus has to brake sharply, they could become heavy projectiles,” warns the MAN ProfiDrive expert. The aisle should also not be used for storage. It has to remain clear in case it has to be used as an escape route in an emergency. “Hand luggage, drinks crates or sports equipment should never be left here as they can quickly become trip hazards. There is also the danger of objects sliding down the aisle,” says Lechner.

The MAN ProfiDrive trainer and his colleagues train drivers on safety. The training also focuses on issues such as efficiency, laws and guidelines as well as general knowledge of new vehicle technologies. The range of courses on offer includes both theoretical CPD and practical training based on the law governing the qualification of professional drivers (BKrFQG) in order to make everyday driving even safer and more efficient.

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