

SHIFTING PROCEDURES FOR AN AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

Automatic transmissions can be shifted two ways:

1. The driver can put the shift lever in “D” (drive) position, and the transmission will shift automatically.
2. The driver can “manually shift” the transmission, selecting and controlling each gear range as needed.

PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING EXACT SHIFTING POINTS

1. Determine the top tachometer setting to be used.
2. Shift into the lowest gear range.
3. Accelerate to the top tachometer setting.
4. While holding the throttle steady at the top tachometer setting, note the road speed (MPH)
5. Now that the top road speed has been established for that range, move the shift lever to the next highest gear range.
6. In the next gear range, reestablish the top road speed of the last gear range. Be sure the bus is rolling at exactly the noted road speed and the throttle is steady. Look at the tachometer and note the engine speed(RPM)
7. Repeat this procedure for each gear range in the transmission.

By setting up an automatic transmission, and establishing the exact shift points for up shifting and downshifting, and establishing the gear splits, a driver can manually control the vehicle in all situations.

Some of the reasons for manually shifting an automatic transmission are:

1. Selecting the proper gear range for the speed you are traveling can avoid undue searching by the transmission for the required gear. This generally occurs at less than freeway speeds.
2. Selecting the proper gear range at the right time may assist the driver in keeping the engine rpm in the correct range to avoid unnecessary lugging while climbing grades.
3. Selecting the proper gear range is important while descending grades in order to help control the bus speed and help avoid heating the brakes.