


# Warning Lights & Signs on Buses – Operational Requirements

Information bulletin



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# WARNING LIGHTS AND SIGNS ON BUSES – OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS INFORMATION BULLETIN

This bulletin is a guideline only. At all-times the appropriate legislation currently in force takes precedence.

## WARNING LIGHTS AND SIGNS ON BUSES

### SUMMARY:

Buses used to carry school children outside designated urban areas in Tasmania are required to be fitted with flashing warning lights and signs. This information bulletin sets out the legislative requirements for warning lights and signs.

### CONTENTS:

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Definitions
- ❑ Which buses need warning lights and signs
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- ❑ Appendix 1 (Defined Urban Areas)

### INTRODUCTION:

Warning lights and signs were introduced in Tasmania in early 1996 and their use became mandatory from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1996.

This Bulletin has been developed jointly by the Department of State Growth and members of the Tasmanian Bus Association.

For more information regarding the standards and fitment of warning lights and warning signs please refer to the Warning lights and signs on school buses - Technical Specifications information bulletin.

### DEFINITIONS:

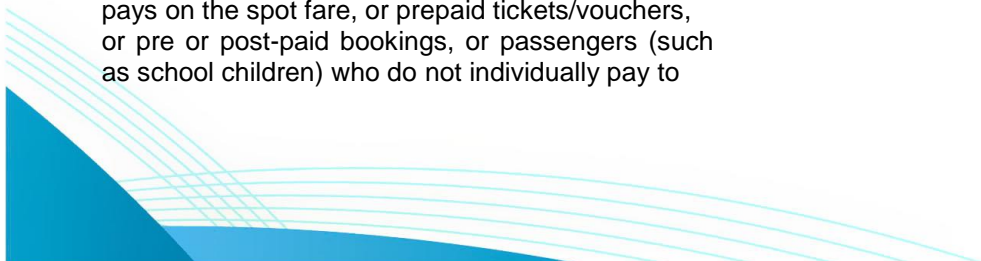
For the purpose of this Information Bulletin the following definitions apply:

- **Bus:** a motor vehicle that is designed and constructed to carry passengers and has seating capacity for more than 9 adults, including the driver
- **Practicable:** able to be done within the available space, method or action
- **Regular passenger service:** Means a transport service that: carries fare-paying passengers in a bus with 10 or more seats [fare-paying means; pays on the spot fare, or prepaid tickets/vouchers, or pre or post-paid bookings, or passengers (such as school children) who do not individually pay to

use the service but for whom collective contractual payment is made by a third party]; and the service is provided at regular intervals over a publicised route, and to a publicised time table.

**Note:** the legal definition of “regular passenger service” is contained in section 35 of the *Passenger Transport Services Act 2011*

- **Schoolchildren:** students who attend a school or senior secondary college in Tasmania, but not TAFE or University students.
- **Urban areas:** areas as outlined in Schedule I of the *Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2014* (see Appendix 1)
- **Warning Signs:** the signs as described in this Bulletin.
- **Warning Lights:** the lights as described in this Bulletin.



## WHICH BUSES NEED WARNING LIGHTS AND SIGNS:

Warning lights and warning signs are required to be fitted to any bus that is used for carrying schoolchildren (certain exemptions may apply, see below). The requirement applies to all buses both the principal buses and reserve or backup buses.

Buses are exempted from the requirement to have warning lights and signs fitted if the bus is

- Operating wholly within an urban area specified in Schedule 1 of the *Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2014*. (see Appendix 1), or
- Carrying schoolchildren on a school charter or school excursion, or
- Operating a **regular passenger service** (see definition on page 1) that is provided and available to adult fare paying passengers.

## IF LIGHTS ARE FITTED

A bus fitted with warning lights and signs must have them fitted in accordance with the requirements of the Warning lights and signs on school buses – Technical Specifications, or as closely as practicable and to meet the operational intent of the warning lights and signs that are viewed as a group.

## USE OF WARNING LIGHTS

Rule 222 of the Tasmanian *Road Rules 2009* requires the driver of a bus which is required to be fitted with warning lights and signs, to ensure that the warning lights are operating when dropping off or picking up a child outside “urban areas” defined in Appendix 1 of this bulletin.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THE WARNING SIGNS AND LIGHTS

Rule 374 of the Tasmanian *Road Rules 2009* requires the driver of a vehicle not to exceed 40 km/h within 50 metres of a bus on the road and displaying a school bus warning sign and a school bus warning light.

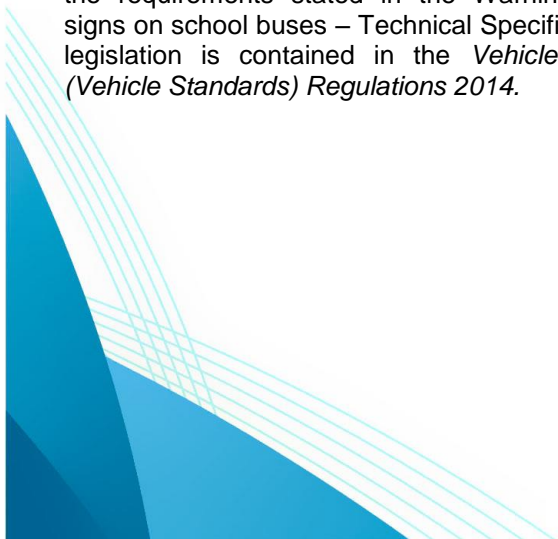
## LIGHTS MEETING ALTERNATIVE SPECIFICATIONS:

Buses brought into Tasmania with warning lights and signs meeting the requirements of another State or Territory authority, are nevertheless required to meet the requirements stated in the Warning lights and signs on school buses – Technical Specifications. The legislation is contained in the *Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2014*.

## APPENDIX 1

### DEFINED URBAN AREAS

Vehicles operating wholly within those areas as detailed in Schedule 1 of the *Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2014* are exempt from fitting flashing warning lights. However, if the warning lights and signs are fitted to a bus they must comply with the specified requirements.



## APPENDIX 1.

### URBAN AREAS

#### Burnie Urban Area

The Burnie urban area is that area contained within the imaginary boundary defined by an imaginary line joining the geographical locations on the public streets listed below.

	<b>Public Street</b>	<b>Geographical Location</b>
1.	Bass Highway	Intersection with Besser Crescent
2.	West Mooreville Road	Intersection with East Cam Road
3.	Mooreville Road	Intersection with Three Mile Line Road
4.	Mount Road	Intersection with Old Surrey Road
5.	Stowport Road	Intersection with Bass Highway
6.	Bass Highway	Intersection with Clarke Street

#### Devonport Urban Area

The Devonport urban area is that area contained within the imaginary boundary defined by an imaginary line joining the geographical locations on the public streets listed below.

	<b>Public Street</b>	<b>Geographical Location</b>
1.	Bass Highway	Intersection with Waverley Road
2.	Forth Road	Intersection with Bass Highway
3.	Tugrah Road	Intersection with Powells Creek
4.	Sheffield Road	Intersection with Clayton Drive
5.	Mersey Main Road	Intersection with Cornicks Road
6.	River Road	Intersection with Oakwood Drive
7.	Bass Highway	Intersection with Port Sorell Main Road
8.	Brooke Street	Intersection with Pardoe Road



## Hobart Urban Area

The Hobart urban area is that area contained within the imaginary boundary defined by an imaginary line joining the geographical locations on the public streets listed below.

	<b>Public Street</b>	<b>Geographical Location</b>
1.	Midland Highway	Intersection with Ford Road
2.	Broadmarsh Road	Intersection with Midland Highway
3.	Boyer Road	Intersection with Midland Highway
4.	Lyell Highway	Intersection with Midland Highway
5.	Berridale Road	Intersection with Allunga Road
6.	Huon Road	Intersection with Summerleas Road
7.	Southern Outlet	Intersection with Summerleas Road
8.	Channel Highway	Intersection with Howden Road
9.	South Arm Road	Intersection with Acton Road
10.	Tasman Highway	Intersection with Belbins Road
11.	Grass Tree Hill Road	Intersection with Sugarloaf Road
12.	Baskerville Road	Intersection with East Derwent Highway
13.	Old Beach Road	Intersection with Plymouth Road
14.	Cove Hill Road	Intersection with Cove Bridge (Jordon River)
15.	Tea Tree Road	Intersection with Briggs Road

## Launceston Urban Area

The Launceston urban area is that area contained within the imaginary boundary defined by an imaginary line joining the geographical locations on the public streets listed below.

	<b>Public Street</b>	<b>Geographical Location</b>
1.	East Tamar Highway	Intersection with George Town Road
2.	West Tamar Highway	Intersection with Corminston Road
3.	Corminston Road	Intersection with West Tamar Highway
4.	Ecclestone Road	Intersection with Rowsphorn Road
5.	New Ecclestone Road	Intersection with Ecclestone Road
6.	Reatta Road	Intersection with Lake Trevallyn Road
7.	Bass Highway	Intersection with Westbury Road
8.	Midland Highway	Intersection with Evandale Road
9.	Relbia Road	Intersection with Glenwood Road
10.	St. Leonards Road	Intersection with Kings Lane
11.	Tasman Highway	Intersection with Abels Hill Road
12.	Lilydale Road	Intersection with Russells Plains Road

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