

BUS SAFETY

June 2011



Operating a school bus service

Under the *Bus Safety Act 2009* (Vic), operators of school bus services are required to be accredited or registered operators, depending on the type of bus service they deliver.

What type of bus service do you operate?

Type of service	Operator requirement	Explanation
Government contracted school service, where the Victorian Government contracts a bus operator to transport school students to and from school.	Accreditation	This is a commercial bus service under the Bus Safety Act.
School bus services funded by the school, where the school itself has a private arrangement where it pays a bus operator to provide to and from school transport services.	Accreditation	This is a commercial bus service under the Bus Safety Act.
Schools operating their own bus service, where students are not charged and a school operates the bus/es to transport school students to and from school for no fee or a fee for cost recovery only.	Registration	This is a community and private bus service under the Bus Safety Act.
Schools operating their own bus solely for school related activities (eg. excursions) where students are not charged and the school (government or private) owns and operates a bus that is used only to transport school students and staff on school excursions, etc, but does NOT provide to and from school transport services.	Registration	This is a community and private bus service under the Bus Safety Act.
Schools operating their own bus service, where students are charged a fee to access to and from school bus services operated by the school.	Accreditation	This is a commercial bus service under the Bus Safety Act.

How can you apply for accreditation or registration?

You will need to complete an application form. Please call the Bus Safety Act Hotline on (03) 9655 8922 for more information.

What are your safety obligations?

Under the Bus Safety Act, there are some key changes to the safety obligations for both accredited and registered operators.

In particular, safety duties have been introduced for all bus operators. Safety duties require a person to eliminate risks to safety so far as is reasonably practicable. If it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate the risks, they should be reduced so far as is reasonably practicable.

Safety duties apply to the operator of a bus service regardless of whether the bus is borrowed, owned, rented or leased. For more information about your safety responsibilities, please refer to the following factsheet: *Understanding your safety duties*.

Where to get more information

Hotline: 03 9655 8922

Website: www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au

Email: info@transportsafety.vic.gov.au

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