

Devices for school buses

The excerpt from the BSR is as follows:

BSR Part 2 Bus safety duties, Division 1—Bus operator obligations, 8 Devices for school buses

(1) Subject to subregulation (2), the operator of a school bus service must ensure that any bus used to provide that school bus service is fitted with complying lights and signs.

(2) If a bus used to provide a school bus service was fitted with warning lights before 1 July 1999, the operator of that school bus service must be taken to comply with subregulation (1) if the bus—

(a) is fitted with a hazard warning device; and

(b) has signs fitted to the front and rear of the bus displaying the words "school bus" in capital letters at least 100 millimetres high.

Regulation 4 Definitions:

Complying lights and signs means warning lights and signs that comply with the requirements of—

(a) in the case of a bus that is a heavy vehicle—clauses 76, 77 and 78 of Schedule 2 to the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulations; or

(b) in the case of a bus that is not a heavy vehicle—clauses 111, 112 and 113 of Schedule 1 to the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2021;

Heavy vehicle has the same meaning as in the Heavy Vehicle National Law (Victoria);

Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulations means the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation made under section 730 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (Victoria).

A school bus service means a bus service providing a passenger service along a fixed route on a regular basis primarily for the purpose of transporting children to and from school

What does this mean – what do you need to do?

If you are using your bus to provide a school bus service, it is important that you are compliant with the requirements for complying lights and signs to be fitted. The information above will help you understand what should be fitted to your bus.

If you do not provide a school bus service, but instead use your bus for excursions throughout the school day, then there is no requirement for your bus to comply with this Regulation.