

Vehicle Safety Inspections

The excerpt from the BSR is as follows:

BSR Sch 4.5 Vehicle safety inspections

4.5.1 Systems and processes to ensure that each bus used by the accredited bus operator to provide a bus service undergoes vehicle safety inspections conducted by a qualified person, including details regarding the following—

- (a) what must be examined and tested during inspections;
- (b) how often inspections are to be completed;
- (c) how the interval between inspections is determined.

4.5.2 Records of each vehicle safety inspection conducted, including details regarding the following—

- (a) which bus was inspected;
- (b) when the inspection was completed;
- (c) who conducted the inspection;
- (d) what was examined and tested during the inspection;
- (e) the outcome of the inspection including any defects identified.

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

As the operator of a bus, you must undertake Vehicle Safety Inspections (VSI's) at appropriate intervals or travel distance. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure the ongoing mechanical and structural safety of the bus you are operating. The appropriate interval period or travel distance is not mandated under the Bus Safety Act 2009 or Bus Safety Regulations 2020 but the guidelines below are in place to assist you to determine when VSI's should be undertaken.

As a starting point you may wish to speak to your vehicle manufacturer or mechanic to help you set an appropriate interval or travel distance for your VSI's. In the event that you have not set an appropriate alternative, ST Vic's guidance is:

- three months (plus or minus seven days) or a specified travel distance, whichever occurs first.
- For the purpose of this part a specified travel distance means:
 - every 20,000 kilometres for a bus that is less than five years old;
 - every 10,000 kilometres for a bus that is less than five years old and has travelled 500,000 kilometres or more;
 - every 10,000 kilometres for a bus that is five years old or more.

When developing systems and processes for VSI's, you should remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that the bus you operate is in a roadworthy condition and safe at all times. It may be helpful for you to refer to other documents such as other applicable legislation, vehicle standards issued by VicRoads and the vehicle manufacturer's specifications. Additionally other documents such as safety alerts, product recalls, and manufacturers' bulletins may be of assistance.

Who can conduct a VSI?

VSI's must be conducted by a qualified person who may be:

- a. a motor mechanic who has completed a motor mechanics apprenticeship and gained a certificate of proficiency or certificate of completion or a person who has been trained overseas and obtained the equivalent qualification in New Zealand or the City and Guilds 1, 2 and 3 from England; or
- b. a person who, having been trained overseas, has obtained a Commonwealth tradesman's right; or
- c. a person who has seven adult years' experience as a motor mechanic and has obtained a tradesman's right; or
- d. a person who is a full or associate member of the Institute of Automotive and Mechanical Engineers (IAME); or
- e. a person who is qualified with the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) as a motor mechanic, senior motor mechanic or "A" grade motor mechanic; or

a person who holds a certificate issued in recognition of prior learning by a training provider accredited by the appropriate TAFE body.