



Information Alert 21

22 November 2013

Dear Operator

Checklist for fire on buses/coaches

ISSUE:

Data captured by Roads and Maritime Services' (RMS) bus incident database reporting system and Office of Transport Safety Investigation (OTSI) reports show there have been a number of bus fire incidents in the last few months. Results range from minor damage to the complete loss of vehicle.

As part of the Safety Management System (SMS) operators should conduct a risk assessment for fires on buses. Part of the risk assessment should include evacuation procedures for all passengers, whether they are mobile, wheelchair bound, elderly and/or children, training procedures for drivers and fire extinguisher access.

It is recommended that all operators read the outcome of the OTSI investigation regarding Bus Fires in NSW 2005-2012 report that can be accessed via the internet at <http://www.otsi.nsw.gov.au/bus/investigations.php>.

The Bus Industry Confederation (BIC) is currently in the process of developing an Emergency Response Procedure for fires on buses and coaches, in conjunction with industry stakeholders. RMS has also created a checklist to assist operators in relation to fires on buses. This checklist should be incorporated into the maintenance scheduling, pre shift inspections and end of shift procedures for all buses and coaches. It is recommended that the RMS checklist is used in conjunction with information released by BIC.

NOTICE:

This notice is to inform operators of the risks involved with fires on buses, so that operators can give due consideration to the issues and implement the required procedures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Kalkandis'.

Rebecca Kalkandis
A/Principal Manager
Public Passenger Services