

Information Alert

16/09/2009

Dear Operator

Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Laws

NOTICE:

The 12 month exemption from the NSW heavy vehicle driver fatigue laws, for the bus and coach industry, is due to expire on 28 September 2009.

From 29 September 2009 bus and coach operators and drivers, **of vehicles with more than 12 seats (including the driver)**, are required to comply with the new laws as prescribed under the Road Transport (General) Regulation 2005. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Complying with one of the following work and rest hours options of the new laws,
 - Standard Hours - heavy vehicle
 - Standard Hours - bus
 - Basic Fatigue Management, and
 - Advanced Fatigue Management.
- Operators/employers must keep records of driver work and rest times.
- Drivers must use a work diary to record work and rest times, unless exempt.

Work Diary Exemptions

Bus and coach drivers are exempt from carrying and completing work diaries if work is conducted:

- Within a 100km radius of their base, or
- Under a NSW Transport and Infrastructure bus services contract, (whatever the distance travelled).

The RTA industry bulletin outlining the requirements for the bus and coach sector is available on the RTA website at the following link:

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/nhvd_f_busandcoach_industryupdate_0809.pdf

Bus operators are reminded that failure to comply with RTA driver fatigue laws is classified as a *Safety Critical Deficiency* under the Bus Operator Accreditation Scheme.

In this regard, operators affected by the changes are required to update their safety management system and other relevant documents to reflect the new laws.

Further information on the heavy vehicle driver fatigue requirements is available on the RTA website <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/safety/hvfatigue/index.html>



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