

Information Alert

1 October 2010

Dear Operator

Runaway Buses

ISSUE:

Following a review of Transport NSW's Bus Incident Management Database, Transport NSW (TNSW) is concerned by the number of incidents involving runaway buses over the past twelve months. A runaway bus, whether in the bus depot or on a public road, has the potential to cause serious or fatal injury, and significant damage to property and assets.

NOTICE:

Due to a number of recent incidents involving runaway buses, operators should ensure that all staff are aware to correctly secure their buses before exiting. Operators should remind all staff of the following instructions and ensure that these instructions are included in driver inductions and training materials:

- Before leaving the driver's seat, you must apply the park brake and check that it is correctly engaged.
- Where a bus is fitted with an external door close control, you must use this to close the door.
- You must not close the bus doors by reaching for switches from outside the bus through the driver's side window.
- Under no circumstances should you access the bus controls via the driver's window.

REQUIRED ACTION:

Operators are required to ensure that all staff are aware and trained in the procedures that prevent/guard against buses running away.

Furthermore operators are reminded that all required incidents are reported to Transport NSW via the Bus Incident Management Database and the Office of Transport Safety Investigations (OTSI). (Police should be notified only if required). The Bus Incident Management Database manual is available on Transport NSW's website to provide guidance on all reporting requirements.



David Tooze
A/General Manager
Compliance & Regulation