



## Information Alert 1/14

21 March 2014

Dear Operator

### **Unsecure Bus Floor Hatch**

#### **ISSUE:**

Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) is concerned about the number of reports received from Heavy Vehicle Inspectors in relation to unsecured floor hatches in buses. The continuance of this issue is concerning considering a previous information alert was disseminated to operators in July 2010.

#### **NOTICE:**

During HVIS routine inspections it has been detected that hatches are regularly not secured to the floor. It is apparent that persons responsible for securing the hatches engage the lock without ensuring that the hatch is secured to the frame or fail to secure the bolts back into the hatch. There are serious concerns that small adults and young children could suffer serious injuries should they remove the hatch and enter into the compartment or inadvertently fall into the compartment.

It is a Condition of Accreditation under Clause 17 of the Passenger Transport regulation 2007, that Operators provide vehicles in good condition and fully operational to the travelling public.

Clause 17 states in part:

(1) The operator of a relevant service must ensure that the interior, exterior and fittings of the vehicles used to provide the service are, at all times during which the vehicles are being used to provide the service, clean and undamaged and (in the case of fittings) duly fitted, securely in place, in good condition and fully operational.

#### **REQUIRED ACTION:**

Passenger safety is an important factor and should be assessed during the operators risk management process and incorporated in their Safety Management System. The assessment should take active steps to identify and control hazards that could cause harm to passengers or the public.

It is imperative that persons working on the buses are aware of their responsibilities when working on the floor hatch and this can be attained by regularly spot checking workshop procedures to verify that they are being implemented satisfactorily. It is further recommended that visual checking of floor hatches on all buses be included as part of the driver's daily check.

Operators are reminded to be diligent in relation to workshop procedures and documentation when checking the completion of all activities associated with servicing and mechanical repairs.

**Joanne Treacy**  
**General Manager**  
**Accreditation**

**Roads and Maritime Services - Safety & Compliance, Accreditation**