

Important notice to public passenger service operators, drivers and the NSW community.

On 1 September 2017 the Passenger Transport (General) Regulation 2017 will replace the Passenger Transport Regulation 2007, which will be automatically repealed.

This new Regulation reproduces all of the provisions currently in place, so there will be no changes for operators, drivers or the community.

Runaway Buses Information Procedure

NSW Transport and Infrastructure (NSWTI) is concerned at the number of incidents involving runaway buses, whereby bus drivers have incorrectly relied on the front door brake interlock system to act as a bus Parking Brake to secure a bus. This practice has the potential to cause serious or fatal injury and should be discontinued immediately.

The attached Bus Safety Alert outlines the correct procedure for securing a bus and should be issued by bus operators to all drivers as a reminder that they should not under any circumstances:

- (i) leave the bus without correctly securing the bus via the bus Parking Brake; and
- (ii) access the bus control mechanism/s via the driver's window.

NSWTI, in consultation with the NSW Bus and Coach Association, unions, the Roads and Traffic Authority and WorkCover, has developed a safety message in the form of an adhesive double-sided sticker to be affixed in a visible position. The requirement to affix the safety stickers to all buses and to distribute the Bus Safety Alert to all drivers forms part of the bus operator accreditation and audit program.

The sticker must be affixed on the lower half of the driver's side window on all buses. The safety message on the inside of the bus will be:

“Parking brake must be applied before leaving seat”

The safety message on the outside of the bus will be:

“Do not access bus through window”

Note: This instruction applies to all operators and all drivers. No exemptions are available or will be granted.

Operators can purchase the safety stickers from the NSW Bus and Coach Association.

 **8839 9500**

 Locked Bag 13, NORTH PARRAMATTA NSW 1750

Note: Stickers are available to both members and non-members of the BCA.

BUS SAFETY ALERT

ISSUE: Runaway Buses

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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.

To prevent these serious incidents from occurring, it is essential that bus drivers correctly secure their bus by applying the **Park Brake** before leaving the driver's seat.

Note:

It is not acceptable to rely upon an open front, centre and or rear door (therefore utilising a door brake interlock system) or the bus stop brake to secure the bus.

There are engineering systems in place, which are designed to prevent incidents of runaway buses. These are, however, not substitutes for drivers' vigilance in ensuring that the Park Brake is always applied before leaving the drivers seat.

Bus drivers, as professional drivers, are responsible for their own and others' safety arising out of their work. Correctly securing your bus before exiting is part of this responsibility.

All runaway bus incidents must be reported immediately to management who must notify NSW Transport and Infrastructure via the Bus Incident Management Database (and OTSI and the Police, when required).

INSTRUCTION

- 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 bus.
- You must not close the bus doors by reaching 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.**