



Subject	Notification that Requirements for urban buses in New Zealand document is to be incorporated into regional/local vehicle quality standards
Circulation	New Zealand Transport Agency staff Passenger Transport Advisory Group Regional and Local Authority Transport Officers Local Government New Zealand Bus and Coach Association Audit New Zealand Controller and Auditor General
Circulated by	Dave Brash Group Manager Regional Partnerships and Planning
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Purpose

To notify authorities and other stakeholders of the need for ARTA, regional councils and where applicable relevant territorial authorities to incorporate the *Requirements for urban buses in New Zealand* document (the Requirements) – which relates to important national bus design, quality and performance aspects – into their regional/local vehicle quality standards used for public transport services in their areas of jurisdiction.

Background

Regional Councils have requested advice from NZTA as to the terms that should be in their contracts for the provision of urban bus services. A key issue was how to provide for the mobility needs of people with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments. Bus and Coach Association New Zealand has indicated its interest in obtaining more uniformity than currently exists in vehicle quality standards used by regional authorities throughout New Zealand for operational reasons, and potential cost savings.

NZTA staff agreed that it was beneficial to develop a set of vehicle requirements for urban buses to be applied nationally, particularly with regard to the provisions for special mobility needs.

NZTA staff have worked together with Bus and Coach Association New Zealand, Auckland Regional Transport Authority, Environment Canterbury, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Designline International Holdings (NZ) to produce a draft document which was consulted on publicly, under the joint auspices of NZTA and Bus and Coach Association New Zealand.

The NZTA managed the consultation process for the draft document. Interested groups received the draft document by e-mail and post, and consultation was invited via the NZTA and Bus and Coach Association's websites. The consultation period was from late August to early October 2008.

Twenty nine submissions were made, two key stakeholder groups commented: regional councils and representatives of people with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments whose mobility needs have been addressed by these requirements.

The final document *Requirements for urban buses in New Zealand* was approved by the NZTA Board on 18 December 2008 and distributed to stakeholders late January 2009.

Procurement Manual

The review of vehicle quality standards throughout New Zealand was identified as an important part of the wider review of procurement being undertaken by the NZTA. The Requirements will be included in the Procurement Manual being developed by the NZTA and will form part of the rules and guidelines for Approved Organisations like regional councils to follow. NZTA staff have also been involved in setting standards for buses used in school services funded by the Ministry of Education, in an effort to raise standards across a number of important sectors.

Implementation

1. *Regional/local plans*

We expect that any changes required to ensure consistency with the Requirements will need to be made in the relevant plans and contracting documents of the regional or local authority eg vehicle policies in the Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP), with the more detailed specification in contract-related documents.

RPTPs prepared under the Public Transport Management Act 2008 (PTMA) are likely to include vehicle policies, but the detail will probably be contained within a document which may be incorporated by reference into the RPTP. (There are important procedural requirements that must be met in order to incorporate documents by reference – sections 24-28 of the PTMA. These provisions are very important if the referenced material relates to the application of a control. For more information see the NZTA-issued *Guidelines for the development of Regional Public Transport Plans*.)

2. *RFT*

All Request for Tender documentation for bus public transport services will need to incorporate the Requirements from 1 January 2009 onwards.

3. *Transition date*

All buses – both new and used imports – entering service (ie registered for use in New Zealand for the first time and intended for use in urban services) from 1 January 2010 will have to meet the Requirements at a minimum, unless otherwise agreed between the NZTA and regional/local authority.

Note: some regions with tender rounds in the first part of 2009 will have vehicles entering service prior to the transition date of 1 January 2010. Given the close proximity to the transition date (ie the latter part of 2009), it was considered unwise not to take advantage of the Requirements. Therefore it has been agreed between NZTA and some regional authorities that these vehicles will also meet the Requirements.

4. *Existing contracts*

The requirement that buses entering service from 1 January 2010 must meet the Requirements also means that any new/used vehicles entering the fleet after this date as part of any existing contract will also need to meet the Requirements at a minimum, unless otherwise agreed between the NZTA and regional/local authority. This would typically be done through a contract variation.

5. Existing bus standards

The Requirements also sets minimum standards for existing buses (buses registered in New Zealand prior to 1 January 2009) that have to be met in five years time ie all existing buses must meet the minimum standards for existing buses come 1 January 2014. This ensures that the older less user and environmentally friendly vehicles are no longer operating at this time.

6. Implementation issues

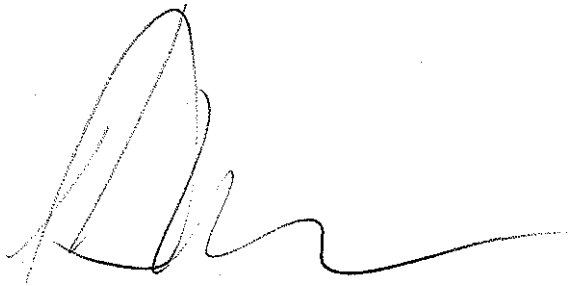
Regional or local authorities who believe they may have difficulty implementing any aspect of the Requirements should contact the NZTA to discuss their concerns. Officers should contact Chad Barker Senior Policy Advisor Public Transport Policy Team at chad.barker@nzta.govt.nz or 03 964 2835.

Requirements for urban buses in New Zealand

The document can be found on the NZTA's website:

<http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/publications/requirements-for-urban-buses/preamble.html>

<http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/publications/requirements-for-urban-buses/index.html>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Brash', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Brash

Group Manager Regional Partnerships and Planning