

Information Bulletin

PT 999/09.18

Emergency Driver Authorisation

What is emergency driver authorisation?

Emergency driver authorisation is a provisional driver authorisation that may be issued in response to a request from an operator to allow the use of a driver who does not currently hold driver authorisation to drive a public passenger vehicle. Before emergency driver authorisation may be issued, the following conditions must be met:

- No other holder of driver authorisation is available to the operator to provide the service.
- The service is a scheduled or essential service.
- The emergency driver has lodged, or will lodge as soon as practicable, an application for driver authorisation.

Additional conditions of emergency driver authorisation

An operator requesting emergency driver authorisation must demonstrate that the following additional conditions have been met:

- Reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the operator has a pool of appropriately authorised drivers who can be used in emergency situations and no appropriately authorised driver is available.
- Reasonable steps have been taken to locate and engage an appropriately authorised driver external to the operator's pool of drivers.
- Emergency driver authorisation has not been requested by the operator more than six times in the last twelve months.
- The emergency driver holds the appropriate class of driver licence for the vehicle to be driven.
- The operator is satisfied that the emergency driver is aware of a public passenger service driver's obligations under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*.
- The emergency driver has been trained in the driving duties to be undertaken.
- The operator has asked the emergency driver and reasonably believes that they are of a suitable character with respect to criminal and traffic history. Further information about these requirements is available in the following information bulletins;
 - [PT17 – Effect of a driver disqualifying offence](#)
 - [PT16 – Effect of a driving history](#)
- The operator reasonably believes the driver does not suffer from any medical condition that may affect their driving.
- The driver must lodge an application for driver authorisation.

Applying for emergency driver authorisation

An operator may request emergency driver authorisation at their local Passenger Transport Office of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Requests should be made before a driver provides a service,

however if this is not possible, the application for emergency driver authorisation must be made on the next business day.

Process:

1. The operator contacts their local Passenger Transport Office to request emergency driver authorisation for a driver.
2. The department will assess the application and, if satisfactory, issue the operator with the original and a copy of the emergency driver authorisation. The original must be carried by the driver at all times while they are driving the public passenger service and the copy is for the operator's records.
3. The driver must lodge an application for driver authorisation as soon as practicable.
4. If the results of the criminal history check reveal that the person issued with emergency driver authorisation does not meet the standards for issue of driver authorisation, the emergency driver authorisation shall be immediately withdrawn and the operator will be advised not to use the emergency driver.

The emergency driver authorisation shall remain valid for 14 days from the first instance of the driver being used to provide the public passenger service unless suspended or cancelled.

Issuing emergency driver authorisation after the event

If the operator has made application for emergency driver authorisation after the event and the emergency driver is no longer required, the department will not issue a letter for the issue of the emergency driver authorisation. However the operator must still notify the department of the use of an emergency driver.

In these cases, the operator is required to maintain the following information on their records:

- the name and address of the emergency driver;
- the driver licence number;
- the date/s and periods the emergency driver authorisation was required;
- the registration number of the vehicles driven;
- the routes (if applicable) travelled by the emergency driver; and
- the reason why the emergency driver authorisation was required.

Additional information

This bulletin has been produced as a guideline and is not a reference to a point of law. Clarification of any information in this bulletin may be obtained by contacting your local passenger transport office. Details of passenger transport locations can be accessed at www.translink.com.au/contact-us

Customer service centre locations can be accessed at www.qld.gov.au

The *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2018* and *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010* can be accessed on the internet at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

Additional information about public passenger services is available on the Department of Transport and Main Roads internet site at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/information_bulletins.