



Standards for the Structural Inspection and Repair of Buses

Operators are required to comply with vehicle requirements specified in Schedule 1 of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010*. This information bulletin outlines the requirements for the structural inspection and repair of heavy buses used for relevant services.

Compulsory inspection of heavy buses

An operator of a relevant service that uses a heavy bus must, when the bus is 20 years old, but before it is 21 years old, have a prescribed inspection entity inspect the body framework of the bus for signs of weakening caused by rust or incorrect repair.

If an operator wants to introduce a heavy bus that is at least 21 years old into service in Queensland, the operator must first have the body framework of the bus inspected for signs of weakening caused by rust or incorrect repair by a prescribed inspection entity.

If a bus has substantial rust that may affect the structural integrity, the bus must have a prescribed inspection entity inspect the body framework for signs of weakening caused by rust, regardless of the bus's age.

age of a bus is calculated from the following dates applied in order of availability:

- 1st Date of first registration anywhere
- 2nd Date on receipt for the first sale of the vehicle
- 3rd Date of manufacture of the original body (Body compliance plate, or manufacturer's letter, etc)
- 4th Date of manufacture of the original chassis (Chassis compliance plate or manufacturer's letter, etc)

prescribed inspection entity means:

- an approved person; or
- an authorised officer under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*, section 20, other than a police officer.

relevant service means a vehicle providing a public passenger service for which operator accreditation is required.

When an inspection may not be required

If a prescribed inspection entity inspected the body framework of the bus:

- when the bus was 19 years old, but before it was 20 years old; and
- within the last 50000km travelled by the bus; and
- the inspection showed that the body framework was in a satisfactory structural condition, a further inspection when the bus is 20 years old is not required.

If a prescribed inspection entity has inspected the body framework of the bus:

- within 1 year immediately before the operator introduces the bus into service in Queensland; and
- within the last 50000km travelled by the bus; and
- the inspection shows that the body framework is in a satisfactory structural condition, a further inspection prior to the bus entering service in Queensland is not required.

A bus may be exempted from a structural inspection if documentary evidence is provided to show that it has undergone an age zero refurbishment service life extension and the extension is in force.

Repairs to bus structures

Repairs to the frame, bows or sheeting of the bus must be performed by a qualified tradesperson in the trade to which the repair relates.

Inspection of structural repairs

Where it is necessary to carry out structural repairs due to corrosion or accident damage, operators must have the repairs inspected by a prescribed inspection entity before painting the frame and refitting the body panels.

Maintenance records

A written record of any structural repairs performed on a bus must be kept for at least 5 years. The record must include a signed and dated endorsement by the prescribed inspection entity that the bus has been inspected and is in a satisfactory condition. The record must also include the names and qualifications of the persons who performed the structural repairs.

Additional information

The information contained in this bulletin has been produced as a guide to assist in the understanding of the legislation and policy. Clarification of any information in this bulletin may be obtained from The Department of Transport and Main Roads by contacting your local Passenger Transport office of the Department.

This bulletin is an interpretation of the relevant Acts, Regulations and Standard and should not be used as a reference to a point of law.

Copies of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005* and *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010* can be purchased from GoPrint.

The legislation may be viewed 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.