

What are the key requirements for bus operators?

Requirements under the <i>Bus Safety Act 2009</i>	Registered operators			Accredited Operator
	My bus has 10-12 seats and provides a commercial service	My bus has 10-12 seats and provides a non-commercial service	My bus has 13 or more seats and provides a non-commercial service	My bus has 13 or more seats and provides a commercial service
Subject to safety duties	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensure the safety of the bus service, so far as is reasonably practicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
Required to report incidents to Transport Safety Victoria	✓	✓	✓	✓
Have a drug and alcohol policy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Required to have annual inspections of each bus used to provide a bus service	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensure that every bus used to provide a bus service complies with each applicable bus standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement a Maintenance Management System	✗	✗	✗	✓
Implement a Management Information System	✗	✗	✗	✓
May be subject to disqualification from accreditation depending on the outcome of a criminal record check	✗	✗	✗	✓
Ensure that each bus driver holds driver accreditation	✓	✗	✗	✓
Ensure that each bus driver holds the relevant driver's licence for the category of motor vehicle	✓	✓	✓	✓
Required to obtain approval to use the holders of probationary licences to drive buses	✗	✓	✓	✗

Frequently asked questions

What if I have removed seats from my bus and it now has less than 10 seats?

- A motor vehicle that was built as a bus but which has had seats removed so that it seats less than 10 adults, is still classified as a bus.
- Transport Safety Victoria determines whether a vehicle is a bus by looking at the number of seating positions displayed on the vehicle's compliance plate or recorded by VicRoads for vehicle registration purposes.

If you have removed any seats from your bus, you should contact VicRoads regarding amending your vehicle's details.

What if I purchased a bus and have converted it into a van or mobile home?

- You should contact VicRoads and inform them that you have altered the configuration of your vehicle.

Will I still need to pay registration on my vehicle or will the bus operator registration cover this?

- You are still required to pay the annual registration fee for your vehicle to VicRoads. Bus operator registration relates to the registration of a person or organisation to provide a service using a bus, rather than the vehicle registration of the bus.

Where to get more information

Hotline: 1800 223 022

Website: www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au

Email: info@transportsafety.vic.gov.au

BUS SAFETY ACT

Information for bus operators



The *Bus Safety Act 2009* (Vic) provides for the safe operation of bus services in Victoria, in particular:

- > the effective management of safety risks in bus operations
- > continuous improvement in bus safety management
- > public confidence in the safety of bus services
- > the involvement of relevant stakeholders in bus safety, and
- > promoting a safety culture among persons who participate in providing a bus service.

What is a bus?

A bus is a motor vehicle built with seating positions for 10 or more adults (including the driver).

What is a bus service?

A bus service is the operation of one or more buses to provide a service for the transport of passengers by road.

Which bus operators must be accredited or registered?

The Bus Safety Act requires that all operators of a bus service that use buses with seating positions for 10 or more adults (including the driver) be either accredited or registered to provide that bus service.



Who must apply for accreditation?

The following types of bus operators must be accredited to provide a bus service:

1. Operators of a commercial bus service that use buses with 13 or more seats and provide any or all of the following services -
 - > route bus service
 - > demand responsive bus service
 - > tour and charter bus service
 - > courtesy bus service (other than a non-commercial courtesy bus service), and
 - > local bus service.

Who must apply for registration?

The following types of bus operators must be registered to provide a bus service:

1. Operators that only use buses with 10-12 seats (including the driver)
2. Operators of a bus service that is not a commercial bus service or a local bus service. This includes -
 - > community and private services
 - > non-commercial courtesy bus services, and
 - > hire and drive bus services.

Note: Non-commercial courtesy bus services must be declared to be such by the Director, Transport Safety.

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