

**SUBJECT: Flashing Red Lamp & Siren Policy**

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Managers, Victoria	Carrier Safety Inspectors	Driver Services Centres
Motor Vehicle Inspectors	Government Agents	MOT (Director, Chair
Passenger Transportation Board	Appointed Agents	Transportation Policy)
Deputy Director, CVSE	Trucking Industry	
Regional CVSE Managers	Law Enforcement Agencies	
Managers, ICBC Licensing	Commercial Transport Insp.	
ADM (Compliance and Consumer	(Inspection Stations)	
Services)	Passenger Transportation Branch	

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**PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR**

To advise enforcement and other agencies of Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement's (CVSE) new policy directive for permitting flashing red lamps and sirens to designated Search and Rescue and Highway Rescue vehicles.

A flashing red lamp and siren permit as issued by CVSE does not directly authorize the use and activation of emergency equipment or the operation of an emergency vehicle under Motor Vehicle Act section 122 – Exemption for Emergency Vehicles. The permit holder (local authority or society) is solely responsible for maintenance of the vehicle under permit as well as driver training, qualifications, vehicle use, dispatch and operation in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act when flashing red lamps and sirens are activated.

Any vehicle issued a permit must carry said permit in each vehicle equipped with flashing red lamp and sirens.

**BACKGROUND**

CVSE has developed a policy for local authorities and societies to equip non-privately owned vehicles with flashing red lamps and sirens for search and rescue and highway rescue purposes.

Some requirements are listed as follows, but not limited to:

- Clearly defined policy of vehicle operation and use that identifies the responsibilities of the local authority or society
- Clear identification of dispatching authority for use of the vehicle
- Acknowledgement from the local authority or society responsible for providing emergency services that the local authority or society is aware the vehicle will be operated as an emergency vehicle.

## **APPLICATION**

Vehicles issued a permit for flashing red lamps and sirens must be maintained to all applicable standards prescribed in the *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* and the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada)*. The vehicle may be equipped with SAE class 1 or 2 type flashing red devices only and must be clearly marked with applicable SAE warning device certification. The red flashing lamp apparatus must be installed so it is visible from all directions outside the vehicle when lamps are activated, and pass a complete mechanical vehicle inspection at a provincial designated inspection facility on an annual basis.

Flashing headlamps (wig-wags) or any other red flashing devices not identified on the permit are not permitted.

CVSE does not assume any responsibility for the provided policy from a local authority or society. The local authority or society policy directive provided will demonstrate the legal responsibility to operate the emergency vehicle(s). If the policy provided undergoes any change that is not identified in the initial application, this will result in immediate cancellation of the permit.

Should any further information be required on the application process, please contact Karen Brown, Supervisor, Vehicle Inspections at (250) 953-4069 or for information about this Compliance Circular, please contact Geoff.ford@gov.bc.ca, Technical Advisor, Vehicle Inspections & Standards at (250) 953-4053, Brian.Kangas@gov.bc.ca, Manager, Vehicle Inspections & Standards at (250) 953-4008 or Brian Murray, Director, CVSE at (250) 953-4024.



Brian Murray  
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Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure