



Emergency Exit requirements for double deck buses

FACTSHEET

In Australia, emergency exits are required to be fitted to all buses over 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass that are designed for more than 16 passengers in addition to the driver and crew.

Emergency exits are also required in all light and heavy omnibuses (MD and ME category vehicles) designed for hire and reward.

This fact sheet clarifies some of the lesser known requirements for emergency exits for double deck buses.

ADR Requirements

Emergency exit requirements for double deck buses are contained in Australian Design Rule (ADR) 44/02 and ADR 58/00 that specify the type, size and siting of the emergency exits required.

In particular, any double deck bus that is supplied, or has been supplied, must comply with clause 44.9.3.2 which states:

“In the case of a double deck vehicle there shall be an emergency exit in either the front face or rear face of each deck.”

Additionally, the emergency exit/s must operate from both inside and outside the vehicle in accordance with the technical requirements for the exit type.

Compliance obligations

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (the Department) monitors and enforces compliance with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (the Act) by encouraging voluntary compliance, undertaking informed risk-based activities and applying proportionate enforcement responses when non-compliance is detected.

Supplying a non-standard vehicle may be an offence under the Act and may breach conditions of approval. Where non-compliance is identified, appropriate enforcement responses will be applied.

Suppliers are encouraged to voluntarily take action to recall vehicles that do not comply with an ADR in force at the time of supply.

If you are the owner, operator or Identification Plate Approval holder of buses that may not meet the ADRs, please contact the Department via the [vehicle reporting page](https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/reporting/index.aspx),
<https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/reporting/index.aspx>

Further information

Information about the relevant ADRs can be found on the Department's [website](https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/design/adr_online.aspx),
https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/design/adr_online.aspx

If you have any questions about this fact sheet, please contact the Vehicle Safety Standards Branch by emailing heavyvehicles@infrastructure.gov.au.