



IB-130B

Vehicle Safety and Standards Information Bulletin

Retrofitting Seat Belts (Restraints) to Buses

Retrofitting seat belts (restraints) to buses may require some considerable thought due to the complexities that may be encountered.

The National Code of Practice “Retrofitting Passenger Restraints to Buses” (the Code) explains the standards to which the modifications must be performed. It may be found on the National Transport Commission’s web site at www.ntc.gov.au

One of the principal aims of the Code is to provide a nationally accepted set of technical specifications that ensure that the modification of buses complies with the applicable requirements.

Note. Consideration must be given to at least the following:

- What standard was the bus originally manufactured to?
- How extensive will the required modifications be?
- To what effect will the modification increase the unladen mass of the bus?
- Will it be necessary to reduce the seating capacity to remain legal?
- Does reducing of the seating capacity create a cargo area that will require a cargo barrier to be fitted?
- Is it a financially feasible proposition to carry out the modifications?

Individual jurisdictions have their own administrative procedures and requirements for the approving the modifications.

The Department of Transport (DoT) Western Australia allows several options for carrying out this modification.

Option 1 Obtain the services of an Engineering Signatory. A list of Approved Signatories may be found in the Vehicle Safety Bulletin IB 102 on the DoT’s website www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs. The signatory will obtain approval in principle, oversee the modifications and produce a report confirming compliance.

Option 2 If the vehicle has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) greater than 4500kg or is fitted with a separate chassis, the services of an Approved Heavy Vehicle Modifier (VSB6 scheme) who has been granted the appropriate codes may be utilised.

In each case the bus will be required to be presented for inspection to DoT.

Correspondence and enquiries

Vehicle Safety and Standards

Department of Transport

34 Gillam Drive

Kelmscott WA 6111

For enquiries contact

DoT

on 13 11 56