

# Information Sheet

## National Heavy Vehicle Standards (Flashing Warning Lights) Exemption Notice 2015 (No. 1)

### Purpose

This information sheet provides advice to vehicle operators about the requirements for operating under the *National Heavy Vehicle Standards (Flashing Warning Lights) Exemption Notice (No. 1) 2015*.

### Introduction

The *National Heavy Vehicle Standards (Flashing Warning Lights) Exemption Notice (No. 1) 2015* provides a single national framework for fitting flashing lights on heavy vehicles to meet workplace health and safety requirements or to comply with Civil Aviation law. The notice also transitions Queensland specific exemptions for green and yellow flashing lights to be fitted to animal management and fire management vehicles and a South Australian specific exemption for yellow lights to be fitted to vehicles used in moving livestock along roads.

### Lights fitted for workplace health and safety or civil aviation

Vehicles that operate at a work site (eg. construction site, mining site, airport) often need to be fitted with flashing yellow lights to increase their visibility. Under the current vehicle standards, these lights can only be used at the work site and have to be removed each time the vehicle is taken onto a road.

To prevent the need to remove the light every time the vehicle leaves the work site, the *Flashing Warning Lights* notice allows the light to remain fitted provided some basic conditions are met:

**1. Only certain types of vehicles can be fitted with flashing lights**

Only for heavy vehicles where the fitment of flashing lights is needed to:

- meet a workplace health and safety requirement for a work site or workplace
- comply with civil aviation legislation
- the vehicle is a bus operating on the O-Bahn Busway in South Australia.

**2. The light cannot be switched on when the vehicle is on a road.**

The driver of the vehicle must make sure when leaving the work site that they switch the light off.

### 3. Letter of Authorisation (LoA)

To make sure only vehicles that genuinely need to be fitted with a flashing light operate under this notice, there may be a requirement that an LoA is carried by the driver.

There is no single format for a letter of authorisation, but it must include the following information:

- be issued either by the work site manager or an authorised representative of the registered operator
- identify the work site where the heavy vehicle is operating  
**Note:** If the vehicle operates at a number of sites which all require a flashing lamp to be fitted, the letter can refer to a 'run sheet', 'work schedule' or another similar document that clearly outlines where the vehicle will operate.
- identify the heavy vehicle or type of heavy vehicle that the letter applies to  
**Note:** You can identify a vehicle either by listing the vehicle's registration number or unique fleet number if it is permanently marked (if applicable). If a letter is needed for a number of vehicles in a fleet that is permanently marked with a company logo and name on the cabin, you can also identify the vehicle by referring to those markings.
- an end date for the authorisation.

### Vehicles that need a Letter of Authorisation

Vehicles that are not easily identifiable as vehicles that work on a construction, mining or manufacturing site need to carry a LoA. This may include generic vehicles having no particular features specialised for use on a worksite or workplace - for example, a basic body truck used to make deliveries.

### Vehicles that do not need an LoA

The following types of vehicles do not have to carry a LoA:

- buses using the O-Bahn busway in South Australia
- vehicles that are easily recognisable as vehicles that work at an airport. This may include elevating food delivery trucks and vehicle-based portable aircraft stairs.
- vehicles that are easily recognisable as vehicles used on a construction or mining site. This may include tipper trucks, concrete agitators or truck-based mobile machinery such as concrete pumps.

## Lights fitted for animal and fire management in Queensland

In Queensland heavy vehicles that are used by certain organisations for fire management or animal management can be fitted with yellow and green flashing lights. There are some simple requirements for these vehicles:

### 1. Only certain organisations can fit flashing lights to their vehicles

Only the following organisations can fit flashing lights to their vehicles:

Organisation	Animal Management	Fire Management
Brisbane City Council	✓	✓
Local Government	✓	✓
Queensland RSPCA	✓	✗
Queensland Government Department	✓	✓
Plantation Licensee *	✗	✓
Griffith University	✗	✓
A new water entity ^	✗	✓

\* as defined in the *Forestry Act 1959 (Qld)*

^ as defined in the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007 (Qld)*

### 2. Lights must only be used during animal or fire management activities.

## Lights fitted for attending livestock movement in South Australia

In South Australia, a heavy vehicle used by a primary producer to move stock along or across roads, or road related areas may be fitted with a yellow flashing light. The light must only be used during stock movements on roads or road related areas.