



Good news on the transport front!

(Message to schools from the Trustees Assn member Chris Haines)

Boards will be very pleased to know a new Land Transport Rule, effective from 1 October 2007, will address the many issues which have arisen over the years concerning the transportation of students and clarify requirements which boards should be aware of.

The important part of the rule is the size of vehicle, which is one that is designed or adapted to carry 12 or fewer persons (including the driver).

Below is the relevant extract from the Rule.

Land Transport Rule

Operator Licensing 2007

Rule 81001

Section 12 Exempt passenger services

12.1 Exempt passenger services

12.1(1) The following passenger services are exempt services for the purposes of the Act and this Rule:

- b) a passenger service where persons are transported under a cost-sharing arrangement between occupants of a vehicle designed or adapted to carry 12 or fewer persons (including the driver);

(Note: "Cost-sharing arrangement" is a defined term.)

Cost-sharing arrangement includes (but is not limited to) fuel costs and reasonable wear and tear of a vehicle; but does not include any infringement fee incurred in the course of the journey, or compensation for the driver's travelling time.

- f) a passenger service that involves the transporting of school children by parents or caregivers in a vehicle designed or adapted to carry 12 or fewer persons (including the driver) in return for a Ministry of Education private transport allowance, including cases in which that allowance is pooled and paid to the conveying parent or caregiver;

- (g) a passenger service that involves the transporting of pupils and their escorts to or from any activity of a school, or children to or from any activity of a kindergarten, play-centre, or other institution providing pre-school education, provided that:
 - o (i) the vehicle is designed or adapted to carry 12 or fewer persons (including the driver); and
 - o (ii) the vehicle used is provided by the institution or by the driver; and
 - o (iii) the driver is a staff member of the institution, or a person approved by the institution, or a parent or caregiver of one of the children being carried; and
 - o (iv) the only payment in respect of that service made by the institution to a driver who provides the vehicle is for reimbursing that person for the cost of running the vehicle, and does not include payment for the driver's service

(Extracted from www.landtransport.govt.nz)

The only comment I would make is that at last the thorny issues around schools having their own vans have been answered in this new legislation.

Further information may be obtained from Land Transport NZ, or if you have any queries don't hesitate to contact either our helpdesk on 0800 782 435 (0800 STA help) or myself – chaines@nzsta.org.nz.