



Rural and Regional Seatbelt Program Taskforce

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are some of my buses not seat belted yet they travel on the same route as other buses that are?

A: We are continuing to work with Operators and progressing through the program. All dedicated school buses in regional NSW will have seatbelts by the end of 2021 consistent with expert advice from the School Bus Safety Community Advisory Committee Report 2012.

For further information please contact: SeatBeltRetrofit@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Q: Why is TfNSW proposing to reconfigure my ODUB? And how do you propose to do it? When will it happen?

A: Regular route buses in regional areas will not have seatbelts. This will benefit customers who have raised concerns regarding the loss of amenity associated with flip down seats for customers with trolleys, mobility aids or prams, and back rests for wheelchair customers on these buses. TfNSW will continue to work with the industry on the development of appropriate solutions and timing.

Q: If I have a 21 year old ODUB will it be replaced?

A: All dedicated school buses older than 20 years (at 31 December 2019) may be replaced with a new bus with seatbelts, rather than have seatbelts retrofitted.

Q: What can TfNSW do if my preferred manufacturer will not authorise standing passengers?

A: The Transport for NSW Bus Procurement Panel has a range of buses and manufacturers from which you can choose. Transport for NSW will continue to work with the industry to correct any misinterpretation of ADR 68/00.

Q: Why do you want standees on a school bus?

A: NSW Government policy is that students should not stand on school buses travelling on high speed roads outside urban areas or on unsealed roads. However, we recognise that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that bus drivers may determine that standing on a school bus is preferable to a student being left in an unsafe situation, if the bus is at seated capacity.

Q: Has TfNSW mandated that standees are allowed on ADR 68 compliant buses?

A: The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development and the Centre for Road Safety have advised that ADR 68/00 does not prohibit standing as long as the applicable parts of ADR 58/00 are met, including:

- there is sufficient space (aisle width and headroom) for standing passengers;
- straps, rails, grips are fitted as required;
- the floor is slip-resistant;
- stop signal devices are fitted;
- emergency exits are suitable;
- high-back seats do not obstruct access to emergency exits; and
- the bus's mass limit is not exceeded.

Q: Are school students permitted to stand on a bus travelling within town boundaries?

A: Standing is permitted as long as the applicable parts of ADR 58/00 are met, including:

- there is sufficient space (aisle width and headroom) for standing passengers;
- straps, rails, grips are fitted as required;
- the floor is slip-resistant;
- stop signal devices are fitted;
- emergency exits are suitable;
- high-back seats do not obstruct access to emergency exits; and
- the bus's mass limit is not exceeded.

Q: Will TfNSW assist with costs to maintain and repair the seatbelts?

A: TfNSW will continue to work with the bus industry to monitor supply of seatbelt components and maintenance issues.