



2.05 RED FLASHING LIGHTS AND SIREN PERMITS

2.05.1 GENERAL

The policy set out in this Directive governs the issuance of permits for red flashing lights under paragraph 4.28 (1) (b) *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*, and the issuance of permits for sirens under paragraph 7.02 (2) (b) *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*. Emergency Vehicles must meet the definition stated in the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

Related Policies:

- [2.07 Road and Medical Rescue](#)
- [2.12 Search and Rescue](#)

2.05.2 DEFINITIONS

[See Terms and Definitions](#)

2.05.3 POLICY STATEMENT

The intent of this policy is to allow local authorities and societies to equip non-privately owned vehicles with flashing red lamps and sirens for search and rescue and highway rescue purposes. Any permit issued by Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) is limited to the authorization for the vehicle to be so equipped with flashing red lamps and siren. This permit does not authorize the operation of an emergency vehicle under section 122 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* and does not govern or authorize the use on highway, dispatch, or operation of the vehicle.

2.05.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) The following entities may apply for a red flashing light and siren permit:
 - a. A municipality, city, town, regional district, or other local authority responsible for providing emergency services.
 - b. A duly incorporated society responsible for providing emergency or rescue services to a local authority or region.
- (2) Applicants must apply for both flashing red lights and a siren.
- (3) Permits are not transferable.
- (4) All vehicles for which an application is submitted must bear markings on all sides clearly identifying the vehicles as an emergency vehicle and markings must include the name of the local authority responsible for dispatch and operation of the vehicle.



- (5) All permits remain the property of CVSE, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, and must be surrendered on demand.
- (6) Any failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit or the policy set out in this Directive will constitute grounds for the immediate cancellation of a permit. Vehicles and drivers that operate contrary to the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* or permit conditions may be subject to enforcement.
- (7) Vehicles issued a permit must pass a complete mechanical vehicle inspection at a provincial designated inspection facility on an annual basis. The vehicle must show a valid certificate of approval decal.
- (8) The vehicle(s) listed on the application must only be equipped with a maximum of one 360 degree multiple flashing red light device or two 360 degree single flashing red light devices. The flashing red device(s) must be visible from all directions outside of the vehicle. Any additional flashing red lamp devices may be considered by CVSE based on the vehicle configuration.
- (9) The vehicle(s) listed on the application may be equipped with flashing red lamps and sirens only; alternately flashing headlamps are not permitted as per 4.28(3) of the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SOCIETIES

- (1) An application for red flashing lights and sirens must be obtained from the Vehicle Inspections Program, via email at Vehicle.Inspections@gov.bc.ca or via telephone at 250-952-0577.
- (2) Provide a policy for operation and use of the vehicle identifying the responsibilities of the designated authority or society. This policy may include but is not limited to:
 - a. Clear identification of the dispatching authority. A letter of acknowledgement from each dispatching agency is preferred.
 - b. Clear identification that the vehicle operators have specific knowledge of section 122 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* - Exemption for emergency vehicles and of *Motor Vehicle Act Regulation: B.C. Reg. 133/98 Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation* or have physical driving training in accordance with section 8 of the *Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation*.
 - c. Vehicle Insurance – Proper Registration and insurance for emergency vehicles.
- (3) CVSE does not assume any responsibility for the provided policy from a local authority or society. The policy directive provided will demonstrate the legal responsibility of the designated authority or society to operate the emergency vehicle(s). If the policy provided undergoes a



change that is not defined in the initial permit application, this will result in immediate cancellation of the permit.

(4) The following must accompany each Flashing Red Lamp/Siren Application or permit renewal:

- a. A photocopy of ICBC registration for each vehicle.
- b. A copy of the most recent vehicle inspection form for each vehicle.
- c. Digital Photos of all four sides of each vehicle. Vehicle markings must clearly identify the vehicle as an emergency vehicle and must show the name of the operating agency or society.
- d. A letter from the local authority or society responsible for providing services indicating that the local authority or society is aware that the vehicle will be operated as an emergency vehicle on behalf of the authority or society.

2.05.5 AUTHORITIES

[Motor Vehicle Act](#)

[Motor Vehicle Act Regulations](#)

[Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure](#)

[Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement \(CVSE\)](#)

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August 4, 2016

2.05.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- n/a