

WorkSafeBC Regulatory Updates

September 6, 2018

Editorial revision to Guideline G17.10 Vehicle Design.

What's new?

Effective September 6, 2018, this update clarifies requirements for seat belt assemblies and emergency exits that apply to vehicles used primarily for worker transportation.

Seatbelts

The Guideline refers to [Motor Vehicle Safety Regulation \(Canada\) Standard 208](#) requiring that all passenger cars, trucks, buses and multi-purpose passenger vehicles, including 15-passenger vans with a GVWR of 4536 kg or less be equipped with:

- a 3-point seat belt at every rear outboard seating position, and
- a lap belt or a 3-point seat belt at every non-outboard (e.g. interior seat on a bench) seating position

Note that these requirements do not apply to motor homes or school buses.

Vehicles used to transport workers and that do not meet the above standard contravene *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHSR) section 17.10(1)(a).

Emergency exits

OHSR section 17.10(e) provides that worker transportation vehicles must be fitted with at least one emergency exit on the left or rear of the vehicle.

Typically, a rear or side door will serve as an emergency exit, provided the door is operable from inside and outside of the vehicle while in use. The Guideline explains that emergency exits may be partially obstructed (e.g. by seats or seat backs) as long as the unobstructed portion of the exit is large enough (at least 3226 cm² or 500 in²) to allow workers to exit the vehicle in a timely manner. For vehicles that will carry 12 or more workers, section 17.14 provides that there must be a 25 cm (10 in.) wide aisle providing access to the emergency exit.

For more information

- Read the updated [Guideline G17.10](#)