

Bulletin #2022-01

OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Important Notice to Manitoba Fire Departments

Emergency Lighting Allowances for Personal Vehicles Used by Paid-call/Volunteer Firefighters

As a result of feedback from stakeholders and clients, work is being done to provide a renewed awareness on emergency lighting allowances for personal vehicles used by paid-call/volunteer firefighters. Beginning on March 1, 2019, lighting allowances for personal vehicles used by paid-call/volunteer firefighters came in force under the Vehicle Equipment, Safety and Inspection (VESI) Regulation after previously being included in the Highway Traffic Act. The lighting allowances under the Act were deemed outdated and inflexible and in order to enhance the safety of paid-call/volunteer firefighters, and other road-users, the lighting allowances were repealed from the Act and updated under the VESI.

The March 1, 2019 updated allowances under the VESI include:

Special equipment - part-time emergency vehicles

3.10 An emergency vehicle that is a vehicle not ordinarily used for emergency purposes and is driven by a volunteer, part-time or on-call or emergency medical responder when responding to fires or medical or other emergencies may be equipped with any of the following:

- a) a forward-facing LED visor lamp or dash lamp that flashes red when activated, alone or in combination with a white LED lamp in the equivalent position;
- b) a forward-facing LED grill lamp that displays a flashing red light when activated;
- c) two rear-facing LED lamps positioned to the left and right of the vehicle's rear that flash red rearward when activated;
- d) a rear-facing LED lamp visible from the vehicle's rear window that flashes red when activated, alone or in combination with a white LED lamp in the equivalent position.

As additional clarification, an individual who is operating a part-time emergency vehicle must have a Class 4 license in order to do so. Please see Appendix A for more information on this requirement. Furthermore, as part-time emergency vehicles used for responding to emergencies are considered as being used for work/employment, individuals should consult with their Autopac agent to ensure that your policy provides appropriate coverage as some coverage, such as "Pleasure Passenger Vehicle" insurance, may not be appropriate.

Please direct any questions to the Municipal Support section of the Office of the Fire Commissioner by email to FireComm@gov.mb.ca, or by phone at (204) 945-3322.