

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2008/13



Reversing Fire Appliances

Issue

Information provided by Fleet Services shows that the number of accidents while reversing NSWFB fire appliances is increasing.

Drivers of NSW Fire Brigade fire appliances need to be aware of the risks involved when reversing heavy vehicles and follow NSWFB and RTA guidelines to ensure the safety of firefighters and the public and prevent damage to fire appliances and property.

Policy

Whenever possible, the driver of a fire appliance must obtain the assistance of another person when reversing the appliance.

The person assisting with reversing must take care to remain in full view of the driver.

In Orders 1999/7

If glare or obstruction restricts visibility, the person assisting must move to a position where the driver can see them clearly, and the person assisting can see the rear of the appliance.

Reversing cameras do not show what is happening to the sides of the vehicle. Therefore, the driver of a fire appliance fitted with a reversing camera must still obtain the assistance of another person when reversing.

Hand signals

The person assisting with reversing must use the following standard hand signals to communicate with the driver.

Reverse



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Veer left



Veer right



Stop



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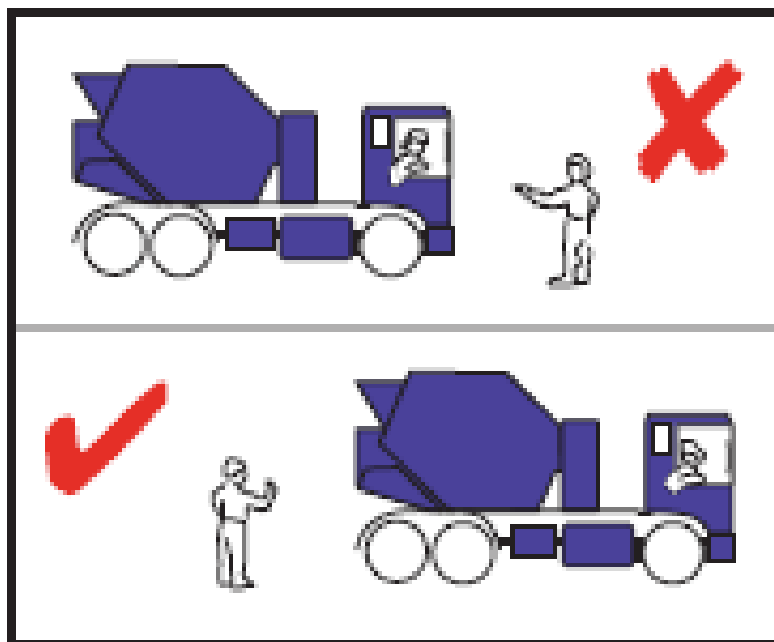


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RTA rules

The *RTA Heavy Vehicle Drivers Handbook, July 2001, pages 43–44 (RTA Publication 01.064)* states:

- You must activate hazard warning lights before starting to reverse.
- Avoid unnecessary reversing. Plan ahead to use the shortest possible reversing distance.
- Use a helper to guide you whenever possible. You should be able to see the guide who should have a clear view of the backing path which your vehicle will follow.



- If you are not sure what is behind you, get out and have a look.
- If you need to park your vehicle in a driveway or loading dock, always reverse your vehicle into position. Although you may need to hold up the traffic whilst you reverse, you drive forward into traffic as you leave, which is much safer.

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Personal protective equipment

NSWFB Standard Operational Guideline 13.2 Safe Work on Roads, Section 4 PPE states:

'To ensure visibility, firefighters must always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working on roadways.

In non-operational situations, high visibility vests may replace firefighting apparel when appropriate.'

Contact Officer: SO Leo McCrory, Manager Appliance Training

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

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Previous Operations Bulletin: 2008/12 — Use of hydrant booster systems