



COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR

NO. 06 / 11

August 04, 2011

SUBJECT: Authorization to Equip Hearses and Official Funeral Vehicles with a Flashing Purple Lighting Device

Managers, Victoria	Carrier Safety Inspectors	Driver Services Centres
Motor Vehicle Inspectors	Government Agents	MOT (Director, Chair
Passenger Transportation Board	Appointed Agents	Transportation Policy)
Deputy Director, CVSE	Trucking Industry	
Regional CVSE Managers	Law Enforcement Agencies	
Managers, ICBC Licensing	Commercial Transport Insp.	
ADM (Compliance and Consumer Services)	(Inspection Stations)	
	Passenger Transportation Branch	

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

Pursuant to Division 4.02 (1) of the British Columbia Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, the Director of Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) authorizes hearses and official funeral procession vehicles to be equipped with a single roof mounted and / or single dash mounted flashing purple lighting device.

Vehicles equipped under this authorization are subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Be owned and operated by a funeral home or funeral director business;
- 2) Must only be equipped with one (1) roof mounted flashing purple lighting device visible from 360 degrees outside of the vehicle and / or (1) dashboard mounted flashing purple device with the lighted display visible from 180 degrees to the front of the vehicle;
- 3) May only activate the device on-highway when operating as the lead or final vehicle in a funeral procession;
- 4) Must operate in accordance with all applicable *Motor Vehicle Act* and Motor Vehicle Act Regulation requirements; and

Failure to comply with these conditions will void this authorization. Vehicles operating in non compliance will be subject to enforcement under the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.

NOTE: Use of the flashing purple lighting device DO NOT, under any circumstances, grant vehicle right of way privileges or any exemption from applicable rules of the road.

BACKGROUND

CVSE has noted safety concerns from funeral business operators regarding the actions of other highway users when they encounter a funeral procession. It has been customary for many years that a funeral procession was identified by all vehicles involved, travelling in one lane, with headlights activated. The concerns have increased since the requirement for vehicles to be equipped with daytime running light devices has been in effect. As a result, a funeral procession may not be readily identifiable to all highway users.

APPLICATION

There is no allowance to equip any vehicle with additional flashing purple devices (other than described by this authorization) or any other non-required lighting device(s). The overall intent of the flashing purple light device is to provide other drivers a means of identifying the lead and final vehicle in a funeral procession.

Vehicles equipped with a flashing purple lighting device are not considered an "official vehicle" and are not subject to the provisions defined under Motor Vehicle Act Regulation Division 47 requirements to reduce speed and move over for specified vehicles.

Should any further information be required, please contact Brian Kangas, Manager, Vehicle Inspections & Standards at (250) 953 4008 or Brian Murray, Director, CVSE.



Brian Murray
Director, Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement Branch
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure