

**Division of State Patrol
Informational Memorandum**

11-03-1

Tab 4

School Bus Inspection Manual

TOPIC: All Red Eight Light Warning Lamp System

Background: Wisconsin is the last remaining state or province with a four light alternating flashing warning lamp system. The department intends to adopt an eight light amber and red warning lamp system in the future.

School bus manufacturers and carriers are concerned with the future cost of converting school buses to an eight light system and have suggested an all red eight light system be allowed on future buses being manufactured for Wisconsin operation. This will make later conversion to an amber and red system less costly and will familiarize bus drivers with the eight light switch system. An all red eight light system will have only 2 red lamps flashing at one time for each direction, just as with our current 4 light system. This should minimize any confusion that may arise from the presence of the extra red lamps. When the time comes for amber and red system implementation the switch over for buses so equipped will entail simply changing the inboard lenses and bulbs from red to amber specification.

Decision: An approved alternative method for compliance with Ch. Trans 300.54 is as follows:

Two additional red warning lamps to the front and two to the rear may be installed inboard and at the same level as the lamps required in Trans 300.54(1)(a)1. If so equipped the system of red warning lamps shall be of equal size and wired so that the inboard lamps are energized manually. The outboard lamps shall be automatically energized and the inboard lamps automatically de-energized when the stop signal arm is extended.

Effective November 10, 2003, this method may be used for new buses and buses already equipped with an eight light system that require conversion to Wisconsin specification. Buses converted under Memo 8-03-1 with black painted lenses are also allowed to use this method.

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