



Questions and Answers

Flashing warning lights and emergency vehicle status

1. What's the difference between a Flashing Warning Light (FWL) approval and Emergency Vehicle Status (EVS)?

An FWL approval authorises a vehicle to be fitted with flashing warning lights, of a colour approved by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Transport (DoT).

The CEO DoT may also approve the use of flashing warning lights on public roads, if the CEO DoT believes there is justification for the vehicle to do so to warn other road users. The driver of a vehicle approved to fit and/or display FWLs must abide by all road rules when the vehicle is being driven on public roads. FWL applications take approximately three weeks.

EVS authorises a vehicle to be fitted with flashing warning lights and a siren, and the use of flashing warning lights on public roads. EVS provides dispensations from complying with certain road rules, when the vehicle is responding to an emergency situation. EVS applications take approximately six weeks.

Application for FWL approval or EVS can be made by submitting an 'Application for Emergency Vehicle Status or to Fit and/or Display Flashing Warning Lights' (E178A) form to vsp@transport.wa.gov.au

2. Can I fit and use flashing warning lights on my vehicle?

Yes, provided:

- the vehicle is a type of vehicle specifically authorised under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* (fitment of FWLs) and the *Road Traffic Code 2000* (use of FWLs on public roads); or
- the CEO of DoT has approved the fitment and/or use of FWLs.

3. Can I operate my vehicle as an emergency vehicle on public roads?

Yes, provided:

- The vehicle is defined as an 'emergency vehicle' in the *Road Traffic Code 2000*,
- or the CEO of DoT has approved emergency vehicle status (EVS).

The following organisations are authorised to operate *emergency vehicles*:

- Western Australia Police;
- A fire brigade (under the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*);
- A bush fire brigade (under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*);
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service;
- State Emergency Service; and
- St John Ambulance.



4. If my application is approved what colour lights can I fit on my vehicle?

To maintain the significance of the warning given by a particular colour of flashing warning light, they are restricted to being fitted to authorised vehicles and can only be used in specified circumstances.

The colour of lights that can be fitted to a vehicle will be dependent on the type of approval granted, that is FWL or EVS. Further information on flashing warning light colours can be located at www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/vehicle-accessories-and-fittings.asp

5. How do I make an application to fit and/or use flashing lights on my vehicle or operate my vehicle as an emergency vehicle (emergency vehicle status)?

Application forms are available on the DoT website.

You must complete the form, attach all supporting documentation listed, and submit via email to vsp@transport.wa.gov.au

- 'Application for Emergency Vehicle Status or to fit and/or Display Flashing Warning Lights' (E178A) form
- 'Application to Fit Flashing Warning Lights Only' (E178B) form
- 'Application to Fit and/or Display Amber/Yellow Flashing Warning Lights' (E178C) form
- 'Application to Display Flashing Warning Lights Only' (E178D) form

6. How long will it take for my application to be processed?

Type	Description	Approval time
AWL	Approval to fit and operate amber/yellow flashing warning lights on a vehicle(s) supporting a charity event.	3 weeks
FWL	Approval to fit and/or operate flashing warning lights on a vehicle	3 weeks
ATF	Authorisation to fit flashing warning lights and/or siren only	3 weeks
ATD	Authorisation to display (use) flashing warning lights and/or siren only	3 weeks
EVS	Emergency Vehicle status	6 weeks

7. How will a decision be made on my application?

Prior to approving any EVS application, the CEO DoT will consult with the Emergency Vehicle Committee, a group of representatives from WA emergency service agencies including WA Police, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Health and the Western Australian Local Government Association.

The Emergency Vehicle Committee will provide information to DoT on what emergency services currently exist in the location you are seeking to use the vehicle. This information will



be taken into consideration when determining whether there is a genuine need for the vehicle to be used as an emergency vehicle or have flashing warning lights fitted.

The CEO DoT will also consider the training of the driver(s), the despatch and recordkeeping systems of the organisation, and any agreements or memorandums of understanding the organisation has with State emergency service agencies.

If the Emergency Vehicle Committee is satisfied that there is a genuine need for the vehicle to be operated as an emergency vehicle or have flashing warning lights fitted, and that the vehicle will be operated safely and not cause unnecessary risk to other road users, the CEO DoT may approve the application.

Where there is not sufficient justification for the vehicle to be operated as an emergency vehicle, but the CEO considers the use of flashing warning lights will assist in the safe operation of the vehicle, the CEO may issue a FWL approval rather than an EVS approval. This will authorise the fitment and use of flashing warning lights, but grant no dispensation from the driver complying with all WA road rules.

8. How will I receive the outcome of my application?

You will receive the outcome of your application in writing via email. If your application is approved your approval letter will also be forwarded to you by post.

9. My company builds and/or leases out emergency vehicles that already have flashing warning lights fitted. What do we need to do to license our vehicles and lease them out?

Vehicles that are built and/or leased out by a company require authorisation from DoT to fit flashing warning lights, unless the vehicle is specifically provided for in legislation. When presenting a vehicle at a DoT Vehicle Examination Centre or Authorised Inspection Station, the vehicle will not pass an inspection unless the fitment of flashing warning lights has been specifically approved.

Please complete an 'Application to Fit Flashing Warning Lights Only' (E178B) form. You will need to present your approval letter to the authorised vehicle examiner at the time the vehicle is examined.

As your company will not be using the vehicle as an emergency vehicle, no authorisation will be given to use the flashing lights on public roads. If you intend to lease the vehicle to a third party the lessee will need to make application to the CEO of DoT to use the flashing warning lights on public roads by completing an 'Application to Display Flashing Warning Lights Only' (E178D) form, or to operate the vehicle as an emergency vehicle by completing an 'Application for Emergency Vehicle Status or to fit and/or Display Flashing Warning Lights' (E178A) form.

10. My company intends to lease a vehicle that has flashing warning lights fitted. Can we use the flashing warning lights on public roads?

If there is a genuine need for a driver of this vehicle to use the flashing warning lights on public roads, you must make application for the approval to use the flashing warning lights.

Please complete an 'Application to Display Flashing Warning Lights Only' (E178D) form.

If the vehicle needs to be operated as an emergency vehicle an 'Application for Emergency Vehicle Status and to Fit and/or Display Flashing Warning Lights' (E178A) form must be



submitted. Please see Q.7 for further information on the approval of emergency vehicle status (EVS).

You must attach all supporting documents as listed on the E178D or E178A form, and submit via email to vsp@transport.wa.gov.au

If the flashing warning lights will not be used on a road that the public is entitled to use (private property), you do not need any authorisation from DoT to use the flashing warning lights fitted to the vehicle.

11. Do I need to have my vehicle examined as part of the application process?

Inspection is not required as part of the EVS or FWL application and approval process, unless the vehicle is not currently licensed. The onus is on the owner of the vehicle to ensure that the fitment of the flashing warning lights complies with the standards and requirements of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulation 2014*.

All unlicensed vehicles must pass an examination prior to the grant of a vehicle licence. If flashing warning lights are fitted to a vehicle, an EVS or FWL approval letter must be presented to the authorised vehicle examiner prior to the inspection. If you do not present an approval letter the vehicle will not pass the inspection.

12. If approved, will conditions be applied to my vehicle licence?

Yes, vehicles that have EVS or FWL approval will have conditions applied to the vehicle licence record at the time the approval is granted. The conditions applied will depend on the type of vehicle, for example a 293 condition code will only be applied to a vehicle that responds to fires.

All vehicles that have EVS or FWL approval will have a condition code (365) applied which will prevent the transfer of the vehicle licence to another owner until DoT is satisfied that the flashing warning lights have been removed, or the new owner has been approved to fit and/or display flashing warning lights.

The table below provides a description of the condition codes that will be applied to all vehicles with EVS or FWL approval.

Condition Code	Condition Description
125	To be used in conjunction with letter of approval which is to be carried in the vehicle at all times
143	Upon resale of where vehicle is no longer used for its modified purpose, vehicle must be returned to manufacturers specifications
293	The use of warning lamps and sirens on gazetted roads may only occur when authorised by DFES
294	Upon resale, if the buyer does not have a valid EVS, all flashing warning lights, signage and sirens have to be removed.
365	This licence or the exemption is not transferable without the written approval of Vehicle Safety & Standards, Technical Policy & Services.



Regulations require that where the use of a vehicle is limited in a manner directed by the CEO, the CEO may license the vehicle as a Class B vehicle. The CEO must endorse the B class licence with the conditions imposed on the use of the vehicle. DoT will amend the vehicle licence record at the time of approval in order to comply with this requirement.

13. Is my vehicle eligible for a concession once it's approved?

Eligibility for a vehicle licence concession is not dependent on, or linked to, EVS or FWL approvals. To see if you are eligible for a concession please see the Concessions page on the DoT website.

14. My vehicle is no longer used for the purpose outlined in my application or approval letter, do I need to do anything?

If you no longer use the vehicle for the purpose outlined in your application, you must remove the flashing warning lights (and siren if applicable). You must also provide photographic evidence to DoT of the front, rear and side of the vehicle showing the flashing warning lights and any emergency vehicle signage have been removed. Photos can be emailed directly to vsp@transport.wa.gov.au with a copy of your current authorisation letter.

The number plate must be visible in the front and rear photographs. If you are unable to provide photographic evidence that the flashing warning lights have been removed, DoT may refuse to allow the renewal or transfer of the vehicle licence until satisfied the lights and siren (if applicable) have been removed. You may be required to take the vehicle for an examination.

Once satisfied the flashing warning lights (and siren if applicable) have been removed, DoT will remove the conditions from the vehicle licence and return the vehicle to an A class vehicle if it complies with the standards and requirements of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

15. What happens when I want to sell my vehicle that has an EVS or FWL authorisation?

EVS and FWL authorisations are not transferable. They are only valid while being operated by the owner or operator it is issued to and are valid for a finite period of time. The conditions applied to the vehicle licence at the time of approval prevent the transfer of the vehicle licence to another owner until DoT is satisfied that the flashing warning lights have been removed, or the new owner has been authorised to fit and/or display flashing warning lights.

If you are planning on selling a vehicle with flashing warning lights attached you will need to notify the prospective purchaser to make application to DoT and have an approval letter issued to them prior to applying for the transfer of the vehicle licence. Alternatively the flashing warning lights can be removed prior to the sale of the vehicle. Please see question 12 for further information.

16. Can DoT tell me if my vehicle is permitted to have flashing warning lights without approval?

DoT may give you general information and may direct you to the provisions that relate to the fitment and/or use of flashing warning lights and emergency vehicles. However, if you believe your vehicle may already be authorised to fit and display flashing warning lights it is recommended you seek independent legal advice.



17. I am organising a fundraising event in which I would like runners or cyclists to be escorted by vehicles displaying amber flashing warning lights. Do I need to make an application for the supporting vehicles to have flashing warning lights fitted and displayed?

Yes. Please complete an 'Application to Fit and/or Display Amber Flashing Warning Lights' (E178C) form. You must attach all supporting documentation listed on the E178C at the time of application. Applications can be submitted via email to vsp@transport.wa.gov.au.