

INFORMATION BULLETIN



June 3, 2024

ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS SIGNS

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to provide information related to the addition of Section 27906.7 to the California Vehicle Code (CVC) regarding the size and placement of a sign on a school bus to indicate that the school bus is a zero-emission bus.

Effective January 1, 2024, Senate Bill (SB) 775 authorizes a school district, county office of education, or charter school using a zero-emission school bus to transport pupils at or below the 12th-grade level to place a sign on the rear of the school bus identifying it as a zero-emission bus. The bill also authorizes the CHP to issue guidelines governing the size and placement of that sign.

Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 1256.5(f), already permits small information labels indicating the fuel type (e.g., electric); however, the labels are limited to lettering not more than one inch in height. The intent of SB 775 is to allow larger signs than the aforementioned labels. Therefore, pending a regulatory change, the Commissioner has elected to issue an exemption pursuant to the authority granted by Title 13, CCR, Section 1202(e), allowing the sign, permitted under Section 27906.7 CVC, to have lettering of up to three inches in height with proportionate width.

Only school buses meeting the definition of a zero-emission vehicle specified in Section 44258(d) of the California Health and Safety Code may display the signs. Consistent with the information labels already permitted by regulation, the sign permitted by the exemption will not have any color restrictions, but will be subject to all the following conditions:

1. The sign shall read “zero-emission” or, as an alternative, may display the fuel type (e.g., electric, hydrogen fuel cell) in uppercase or lowercase letters of not more than three inches in height and of proportionate width.
2. The overall size of the sign shall be proportionate to the size of the letters and not more than one sign authorized by the exemption may be affixed to a school bus.



3. The sign shall be located on the rear of the school bus, no higher than the bottom edge of the passengers' side window glass, above the rear bumper, and not closer than six inches to any required or permitted sign or marking.

School buses displaying the signs shall remain in compliance with all other provisions of the CVC and Title 13, CCR, inclusive of requirements contained in Section 1256.5, not specifically addressed by the exemption, and shall carry a legible reproduction of the exemption in the school bus, to be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized employee of the CHP, any peace officer, or any interested member of the public.

Questions regarding this IB should be directed to the Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 062

