



## Information Alert 20

7 May 2013

Dear Operator

### **Coolant Leaks**

#### **ISSUE:**

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is aware of a safety concern in relation to buses leaking coolant.

Engine coolant can be ignited by heat, a typical scenario is that there is a hose with a leak which allows the coolant to leak onto a hot surface. Over a period of time the continued leaking of the coolant and then evaporation, may leave a build-up of resin behind (typically white powder). This build-up contains Ethylene glycol. After the water content has evaporated, Ethylene glycol in coolant has a Flash point of 111 °C and under certain conditions it can be ignited by a hot engine component.

In recent incidents it was found that although vehicles had been maintained to the manufacturer's standards there was a common fault of split hoses and connecting hoses leaking coolant.

RMS would like to advise operators that they should implement an inspection program of all cooling system hoses and connections.

All operators should be aware that split hoses can cause major safety issues, therefore along with your licensed mechanic, an inspection program should be prepared and implemented to ensure safety.

#### **NOTICE:**

This notice is to inform operators of the above findings, so they may consider the issues and the requirement for continuous inspections of hose components on all buses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Tooze'.

**David Tooze**  
**Principal Manager**  
**Compliance and Regulation**

**Roads and Maritime Services - Public Passenger Services Compliance and Regulation**