

Safety Guidelines for Installing Window Graphics on Buses and Other Vehicles with Emergency Exit Windows

CLEAR FOCUS Imaging is dedicated to safety and makes a concerted effort to ensure that all safety regulations are observed. Compliance with safety regulations is particularly important in the case of buses and other vehicles equipped with emergency exit windows.

The windows on buses also serve as emergency exits and must remain operational at all times. Prior to installing graphics on the windows of a bus, the installer must open all emergency exit windows to determine whether the windows are functional. Opening the windows will also allow the installer to determine where the graphics can be trimmed to ensure that, after installation, the window seals are not obstructed by the window-graphics film and that the emergency exit windows will continue to function properly. Applying the window-graphics film over the emergency exit window seals, thereby making the emergency exit windows inoperable, creates a safety hazard in the event of an accident.

If the installer is unable to open any of the windows, he/she should immediately report this to the bus maintenance facility management. The installer must not install any graphics to any emergency exit window that is not functioning properly.

After installing the graphics, the installer must open all emergency exit windows once again to confirm that they are still functioning properly. Failure to do so may result in the installer being in violation of United State Code Title 49, USCS 30122, and subject to fines as described below in 49 USCS § 30165, Civil Penalty.

49 USCS § 30122. Making safety devices and elements inoperative.

(b) Prohibition. A manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or motor vehicle repair business may not knowingly make inoperative any part of a device or element of design installed on or in a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in compliance with an applicable motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter [*49 USCS §§ 30101 et seq.*] unless the manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or repair business reasonably believes the vehicle or equipment will not be used (except for testing or a similar purpose during maintenance or repair) when the device or element is inoperative.

If a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or motor vehicle repair business renders an item of safety equipment inoperative, they are subject to civil penalties outlined in 49 U.S.C. 30165. See below.

49 USCS 30165. Civil Penalty.

A person that violates any of section 30112, 30115, 30117 through 30122, ... or a regulation prescribed thereunder, is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation. A separate violation occurs for each motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment and for each failure or refusal to allow or perform an act required by any of those sections. The maximum penalty under this subsection for a related series of violations is \$15,000,000.

An installer also should not apply graphics to areas of a vehicle or vehicle windows that may impair the driver's vision or may violate any federal, state or local laws. For more information, contact your local highway safety administration for laws pertaining to your particular state.

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