August 31, 2022
18-2022

To All Authorized Employers of Peace Officers:

RE: School Bus Speed Limits and S-Endorsement Requirements

Alberta Transportation has requested the attached bulletin be shared with all law enforcement agencies regarding amendments made to the Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation (UHRRR) and the Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation (OLVCR).

In conjunction with the above, amendments will be made to the Procedures Regulation to align with the new school bus operating rules in the UHRRR. The amendment to the Procedures Regulation will be effective on September 8, 2022.

Enforcement of the differential speed limit for school buses ceases, as of September 1, 2022.

Sincerely,

Sean Bonneteau, CD
Director
Law Enforcement Standards and Audits

Attachment
To: Alberta Police Services, Sheriffs, and Peace Officers

RE: School Bus Speed Limits and S-Endorsement Requirements

The purpose of this communication is to provide information about amendments made to the Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation (UHRRR) and the Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation (OLVCR).

S-Endorsement Requirements
Effective September 1, 2022, an amendment to the OLVCR is in force that exempts drivers from requiring the S-endorsement on their driver’s licence to operate a school bus, if there is no more than two passengers and the passengers are not students as defined by the Education Act or minors. The driver still requires the correct class of driver’s licence for the type or size of the vehicle being driven.

This change was requested by student transportation industry to reduce red tape for mechanics, technicians, or other support staff to operate a school bus for reasons other than student transportation. Examples include test-driving a school bus after repairs or to delivering a replacement bus in the event of a break down.

School Bus Speed Limits
Effective September 1, 2022, an amendment to the UHRRR is in force that allows school buses to operate at the posted speed limit, instead of a maximum of 90 kilometres per hour (km/h). The current differential speed limit for school buses creates confusion for both enforcement and the public. These changes align school bus speed limits within other Canadian jurisdictions. Alberta was the only Canadian jurisdiction that limited speed for school buses at 90 km/h in zones where other vehicles have a higher speed limit. This change will increase road safety by reducing the likelihood of drivers taking unnecessary risks to pass slower-moving school buses.

In conjunction with the above, amendments will be made to the Procedures Regulation to align with the new school bus operating rules in the UHRRR. The amendment to the Procedures Regulation will be effective on September 8, 2022.

Enforcement of the differential speed limit for school buses ceases, as of September 1, 2022.

Sincerely,

Paul Lamoureux
Executive Director
Driver Programs Branch
Safety and Policy Division
Alberta Transportation
Government of Alberta