

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

NOTICE
8.1

October 16, 2018

TO: All Sworn Personnel

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: ENFORCEMENT OF LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC)
SECTION 115.03 – AMPLIFIED SOUND ON UNENCLOSED TOUR BUSES

For decades, Los Angeles has been an international tourist destination to millions of visitors. Supporting this endeavor, sightseeing tour bus operators deploy numerous unenclosed buses with sound amplifying equipment to communicate with their passengers. Unfortunately, the amplified sound at times disturbs people in their homes, at their places of work, and on the streets along sightseeing bus routes.

On January 1, 2018, California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 21118 took effect allowing local jurisdictions to adopt rules and regulations to prohibit the use of loudspeakers or public-address systems by unenclosed tour buses. The CVC now requires the use of headphones or similar devices by passengers for any information or presentation provided. Therefore, in response to this ongoing nuisance and years of complaints from the public, the City of Los Angeles enacted LAMC Section 115.03.

The intent of LAMC Section 115.03 is to encourage operators of sightseeing tour buses operating in the City of Los Angeles to provide audible information or presentations to passengers using sound reduction technology. This technology provides individual headphones or headsets, designed for and capable of communicating information to passengers in a manner that is audible only to the individual listener.

Note: An “Operator” is defined as any person or corporation who conducts a business or enterprise that operates one or more Unenclosed Tour Buses. “Sound Amplifying Equipment” is defined as any machine or device for the amplification of the human voice, music or any other sound, as indicated in Subsection (j) of LAMC Section 111.01, and includes loud speakers and public-address systems. A “Tour Bus” is defined as a privately-owned bus or passenger vehicle for hire, which is operated by or for a charter-party carrier of passengers or a passenger stage corporation, as set forth in CVC Section 612, subsection (a), and as defined in California Public Utilities Code Sections 226 and 5360. A Tour Bus includes any vehicle that is used primarily for the conveyance of passengers over the public streets, for visiting or viewing places of interest. An “Unenclosed Tour Bus” is defined as a Tour Bus that has had its roof substantially structurally modified or removed, as set forth in CVC Section 612,

Subsection (b), such that it can be and is operated without a solid roof covering all seating areas of the vehicle.

An Unenclosed Tour Bus shall also include any Tour Bus that has had its side panels substantially structurally modified and/or removed, such that it can be and is operated without side panels fully enclosing the sides of the vehicle, when doors and windows are closed.

Therefore, it shall be unlawful for any Operator or any person employed by an Operator to cause, allow, or permit the use of Sound Amplifying Equipment on any Unenclosed Tour Bus while the vehicle is operating within the City of Los Angeles.

Effective July 18, 2018, officers can begin enforcing LAMC Section 115.03, which constitutes an infraction pursuant to CVC Sections 40000.1 and 42001. Officers will use a Notice to Appear, Form 04.50.00, to issue citations. Convictions and related fines pursuant to LAMC Section 115.03 will be tracked by the courts.

If you have questions regarding this Notice, please contact the Specialized Enforcement Section, Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0777.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

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