

# Police Service Circulars

8 February 1999

PSC 99/1

## FORENSIC EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT

In view of the value of forensic evidence, all steps must be taken to prevent its contamination, loss or destruction and to ensure Police Service staff are not unnecessarily exposed to physical or biological risks.

From 1 February 1999, all exhibits/specimens collected at scenes or received by Forensic Services Group (FSG) staff for examination or analysis, will be placed in a suitably labelled bag or container by the FSG officer and sealed until opened for forensic analysis. The exhibit will then be resealed until required for further examination, disposal or is presented in evidence.

Exhibits collected at the scene will be taken as soon as possible by the FSG officer or investigator to a police station within the area of the incident and lodged in a designated exhibit room until required for examination/analysis.

Where a forensic evidence bag and seal are intact, there is no requirement for an officer entering the exhibit into the station exhibit book to open and check the bag's contents. When entering the item into the exhibit book the officer will record the item as eg: "One sealed paper bag, in part labelled, Item No. 1, Job No. 98/427, received from Cst Brown, Parramatta Crime Scene Section."

There will be times when access is crucial and failure to gain access will significantly affect the progress of an enquiry. When this situation arises, investigators must liaise with the relevant FSG officer or contact the 'on call' crime scene operations coordinator through the duty operations inspector, VKG.

Only relevant FSG personnel will be authorised to break the seal and gain access to an exhibit prior to examination or analysis.

The practice relating to exhibits, under the heading 'Receipt of exhibits at stations' in the Police Service Handbook, is amended to reflect the above.

*J T Jarratt*  
Deputy Commissioner



### INDEX HEADINGS:

FORENSIC SERVICES – evidence management

EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT – forensic services

EXHIBITS – amendment to practice

POLICE SERVICE HANDBOOK – amendment to exhibits practice

Enquiries: 34551 / (02)

File No: 82104684-012

# Police Service Notices

8 February 1999

PSN 99/12

## MOTOR TRAFFIC AMENDMENTS TOWING & MASS LIMITS

Withdrawn

The Motor Traffic Amendment (Towing & Mass Limits) Regulation, 1998 introduces amendments to certain towing matters. It was gazetted on and is effective from Friday, 18 December 1998.

The speed limit of 80 kmh for light vehicles and trailer combinations has been removed and the weight ratio allowed for towing and light vehicles has been increased.

The amendments also include changes in penalty amounts for light vehicles and trailer combinations exceeding the prescribed weight, withdrawn offences which are no longer applicable, and changes in short titles for some offences.

All amendments, along with explanations and relevant legislation have been created as MEMO bulletin board: TOWING OFFS.

- Tab to the <Command> field
- Type <BB> for bulletin board
- Select <Field Operations>

- Select <IPB-New & Changed Offence Codes>.

For units committed to traffic laws enforcement, regular monitoring of the IPB MEMO bulletin board is recommended.

*D Mooney*  
Executive Director  
Management Services Business Unit

### INDEX HEADING:

FIXED PENALTY HANDBOOK – tow truck offences

TOW TRUCK OFFENCES – fixed penalty handbook

MASS LIMIT OFFENCES – fixed penalty handbook

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