

COMMERCIAL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION LICENSING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

OVERVIEW March, 2008



Introduction

- The Passenger Transportation Act (PTA) came into effect in June 2004 (replacing the Motor Carrier Act).
- The PTA:
 - ◆ Streamlines regulation for large tour & charter buses
 - ◆ Reduces regulation for inter-city buses
 - ◆ Continues regulation of taxis and limousines
 - ◆ Introduces an administrative penalty scheme

Administration

- Administration of the Passenger Transportation Act is a joint responsibility of the *Passenger Transportation Board*, a quasi-judicial body, and the *Registrar of Passenger Transportation* (who leads the Passenger Transportation Branch of the Ministry of Transportation)

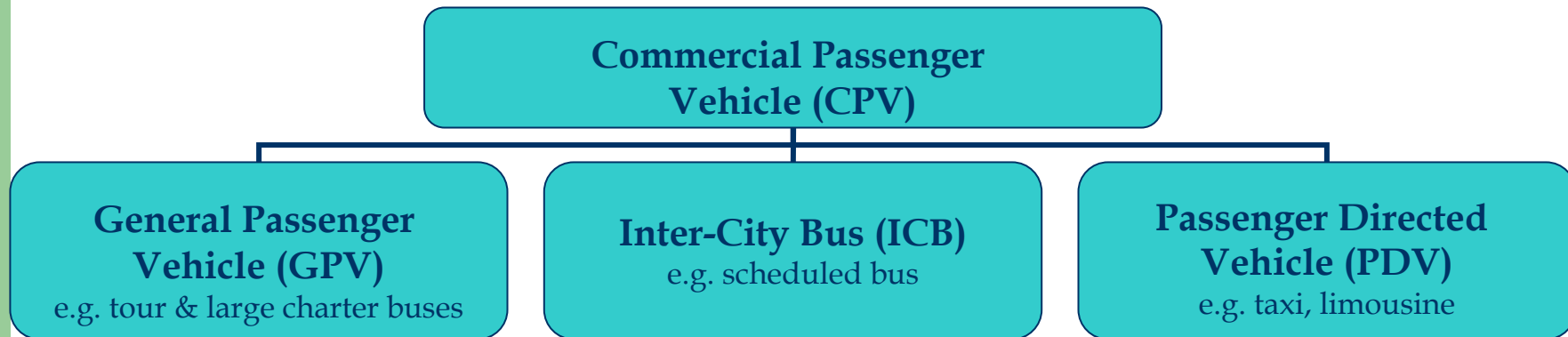
Registrar & Passenger Transportation Branch

- Accept all licence applications
- Issue all passenger transportation licences
- In cooperation with partner agencies (police and the Ministry of Transportation's commercial vehicle inspectors) undertake compliance actions against both licensed carriers and unlicensed operators.
- Manage an administrative penalty scheme for licensees who are not in compliance with their terms and conditions of licence.

Passenger Transportation Board

- Approves applications for specific types of licences such as taxis, limousines and scheduled buses
- Hears appeals of administrative penalties imposed by the Registrar
- Is an independent tribunal, with a minimum of 3 part-time members who are appointed by Cabinet.

Types of Commercial Passenger Vehicles under the PTA



Licensing Approvals

1. **General Passenger Vehicles** – applications are approved by the Registrar of Passenger Transportation
2. **Inter-City Buses and Passenger Directed Vehicles** – applications are approved by the Passenger Transportation Board

Exemptions & Exclusions

- The PTA regulations exclude some vehicles from the definition of ICB or PDV. These excluded vehicles are then considered general passenger vehicles.
 - ◆ E.g. Airport connector buses; Scheduled Sightseeing buses; Car and van pool vehicles
- The PTA regulations exempt some vehicles from licensing requirements.
 - ◆ E.g. vehicles operated by municipalities within the municipality; hearses and funeral vehicles; vehicles used for care-giving where no charge is specified for transportation; school buses

General Passenger Vehicles (GPV)

- **GPV** is any commercial passenger vehicle that is not an inter-city bus or passenger directed vehicle.
 - ◆ Operators must meet safety requirements
 - ◆ Operators must not be subject to enforcement/ compliance action
- **GPVs** may operate
 - ◆ anywhere in the Province
 - ◆ set own rates
 - ◆ manage fleet size

Inter-City Bus (ICB)

- ICBs operate
 - On **set time schedule** between prescribed municipalities (other than GVRD or CRD)
 - For **individual fares**
 - Over a **regular route**
 - **Between fixed terminating points**, picking up and dropping off passengers at intermediate points, as necessary

Passenger Directed Vehicles (PDV)

- **PDVs**
 - ◆ accommodate a driver and **not more than 11** passengers
 - ◆ is operated to and from locations **determined** by or on behalf of the **passengers**
- **Common examples of PDVs:**
 - ◆ taxis, limousines, small charter or shuttle vans

Approvals of Applications by Board

- The Board may approve ICB and PDV applications if it considers:
 1. There is a public need for the service;
 2. The applicant is fit & proper and capable of providing the service; and
 3. The application promotes sound economic conditions in the transportation business

Terms & Conditions of Licence

- PT Board sets terms and conditions for operations.
E.g.:
 - ◆ Passenger pick-up & drop off locations for taxis and limos
 - ◆ Maximum fleet size for taxis and limousines
 - ◆ Minimum route frequencies for inter-city buses
- PT Board approves or sets rates for taxis and limousines

Sanctions under the PTA

- Unlicensed operators – fine is \$1150 per day
- Other offences - fine is \$288.
- Administrative fines up to \$1500, licence or vehicle suspension, licence cancellation for licensees. (This is administered by the Registrar and Passenger Transportation Branch)