



May 27, 2008

Dear Passenger Transportation Licensee:

RE: (Bill 33) Legislative Changes Effective July 1, 2008

The *Passenger Transportation Act*, implemented in 2004, eliminated “economic” regulation (ie. no further limits of fleet sizes, tariffs or geographical operating areas) for those types of vehicles operating under General Authorization (GA) licences, primarily being charter buses, sightseeing buses and vans, and stretch SUV-types of limousines. Given this elimination of economic regulation, government has recognized there is no longer a need for vehicle-specific identification for vehicles operating under GA licences.

In response, the Legislature recently approved amendments to the *Act* to streamline the vehicle-specific identification requirements for GA licensees. Government has also implemented regulatory changes to reduce licensing fees for these vehicles (all existing licensing and associated fee requirements for vehicles operating under Special Authorization licences remain unchanged).

Highlights of these changes, which will come into force on July 1, 2008, include the following:

- vehicle-specific identifiers (plates and decals) and vehicle identification certificates will no longer be required for vehicles operating under General Authorizations, but rather will have to display their General Authorization Vehicle Identifier, or GAVI (PT licence number, ie. PT 70000) on either the left hand side of the vehicle below the driver’s window, or on either the rear window or rear bumper; the size of these letters and numbers must be at least 5 centimetres (approx. 2”) high (this size requirement is consistent with the requirements for the display of the names of National Safety Code certificate holders, as prescribed in the Motor Vehicle Act Regulation); these new GAVIs will not be supplied by the Branch, but rather each licensee will be responsible for their manufacture and mounting

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- GA or Hybrid (a licence which bears both General and Special Authorizations) licensees will be able to add vehicles to their GA fleets without any involvement of the Passenger Transportation Branch, therefore eliminating the current requirements for Branch receipt of current Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program reports (CVIPs), vehicle registration/insurance documents and the \$100/vehicle licensing fee; however, these documents will still be required prior to a GA licence being issued, and at the time of annual PT licence renewals, for GA licensees and for those vehicles operating under the GA portion of hybrid licences
- the \$100/vehicle fees for activating new GA licences and annually renewing existing licences have been eliminated; there will now be only a single flat fee of \$100 for the annual renewal of a GA licence; the application fee for applying for a new GA licence will remain unchanged at \$200

GA and hybrid licensees will be receiving, in separate correspondence, details regarding timeframe requirements for both the display of the new GAVIs, and for the return of the current PT plates and vehicle identification certificates for these respective GA vehicles.

We have attached, for your information, a Questions and Answers sheet which will hopefully address questions you may have regarding these changes. If you have any further questions, please contact the Branch's Duty Inspector at 604-453-4250 or toll-free at 1-888-453-4280 (within B.C. and Alberta).

Regards,



Tom Greene
Registrar and Director
Passenger Transportation Branch

Attachment