

## INDUSTRY NOTICE

### IMPORTANT NOTICE OF REGULATORY CHANGE Effective February 27, 2015

Posted February 26, 2015

#### What's Changing?

The definition of “passenger directed vehicles” in the Passenger Transportation Regulation has changed. The definition now includes all vehicles with primarily perimeter seating, regardless of seating capacity. We are calling perimeter seating vehicles that seat 12 passengers and a driver, “Perimeter Seating Buses”.

#### A Perimeter Seating Bus is a vehicle that:

- seats a driver and 12 or more passengers
- has primarily perimeter seats (e.g. stretch SUV; limo bus) and
- provides a passenger directed service.

**After April 30, 2015, you will not be able to operate Perimeter Seating Buses under a General Authorization (GA) licence.**

If you provide exclusively “carrier directed tours” with perimeter seating vehicles, you may continue to operate these under a GA. Vehicles with forward facing seats that seat a driver and 12 or more passengers will also continue to operate under a GA.

#### Why is this change being made?

The change creates a level playing field in the limousine industry. Under a Special Authorization (SA) licence, rates, areas of operation and fleet size are regulated. Now all limousines will be regulated in the same manner. Buses and stretch SUVs that have been modified in a limousine style will no longer have an unfair advantage over operators of smaller limousines and sedans.

#### How will this affect my operations?

You must obtain a SA licence by May 1, 2015 if you want to continue operating Perimeter Seating Buses for passenger directed services. Please ensure you review your fleets and services immediately to determine if you need an SA authority.

The PT Branch and PT Board have developed streamlined application packages. **We are encouraging you to submit your application for an SA before March 25, 2015 to allow for timely processing of applications.**

**How will I convert my current licence to comply with these changes?**

The chart below outlines the type of licenses and authorizations that you may have after April 30, 2015.

Current Licence & Fleet	Licence required after April 30, 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA only – entire fleet are perimeter seating buses</li> </ul>	SA licence approved by PT Board  Existing GA licence approved by PT Registrar remains active until expiry and non PSB vehicles may be added *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA only – fleet includes both perimeter seating buses and other vehicles</li> </ul>	SA licence approved by PT Board for perimeter seating vehicles  Existing GA licence approved by PT Registrar will continue to be used with other vehicles*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA/SA Hybrid – Entire GA fleet is perimeter seating buses</li> </ul>	SA licence approved by PT Board  Existing GA licence approved by PT Registrar remains active until expiry and non PSB vehicles may be added *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA/SA Hybrid – GA fleet includes both perimeter seating buses and other vehicles</li> </ul>	SA licence approved by PT Board for perimeter seating vehicles operating under GA licence.  Existing GA licence approved by PT Registrar will continue to be used with other vehicles*

\*Licensees may be required to complete a declaration listing the vehicles and services that you will continue to operate under a GA licence.

**Where can I get additional information on the change and the application process?**

Please view the “What’s New” section of the Registrar’s website for additional information on these changes or to get started on your application for an SA.

<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/rpt/>

If you have any further enquiries about this regulation change, please contact the Duty Inspector at 604-527-2198 or toll free: Call the Enquiry BC number at 1-800-663-7867 and ask for the Passenger Transportation Branch.

Regards,



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 Registrar and Director  
 Passenger Transportation Branch

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BC residents can call toll free through Enquiry BC:  
 Victoria: 250-387-6121  
 Elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867