



INDUSTRY NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE LICENCE INFORMATION FOR PSB OPERATORS

Posted November 19, 2015

Background:

On February 27, 2015 the definition of “passenger directed vehicles” in the Passenger Transportation Regulation was changed. The definition now includes all vehicles with primarily perimeter seating, regardless of seating capacity. These vehicles are called “Perimeter Seating Buses” (PSB), and defined as 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

As a result of this change, all prospective PSB operators were immediately required to apply for Special Authorization (SA) licenses and all existing General Authorization (GA) licensees could not operate their PSB vehicle(s) after April 30, 2015 without Special Authorization from the Passenger Transportation Board.

To accommodate those existing licensees with seasonal operations the streamlined application process was made available until August 28, 2015. Those opting to delay applying for a SA licence were still required to cease operating their PSB(s) as of May 1, 2015 and not start again until their new SA was approved and issued.

Licensed PSB Operators:

If you received a Special Authorization licence as part of the streamlined application process for PSB operators you should now hold both a General Authorization (GA) and Special Authorization (SA) licence. A small number of PSB operators chose to cancel their GA when their SA licence was issued.

You do not need a GA licence to operate your perimeter seating buses unless you intend on providing (for example) carrier directed sightseeing services where the schedule, itinerary and price are designed and marketed by the operator and cannot be modified by or on behalf of the passengers. For those operators, the GA needs to be maintained and both the GA and SA renewal paperwork and fees would be applicable at the time of renewal.

As part of the PSB transition, all licensees who wish to use a perimeter seating bus under their GA licence will be required to submit a service proposal. The Branch will review this information to determine if you meet the requirements to maintain your GA licence.

A service proposal must be submitted to the Branch prior to your renewal date to avoid processing delays of your licence renewal.

The service proposal must include answers to the following questions:

1. How will the PSB vehicle be used under a General Authorization licence?
2. Which vehicle(s) will be used under the GA? (identify the vehicle by vehicle registration or include a copy of the vehicle registration with the service proposal)
3. What type of compensation will be received for the GA vehicle(s)? (e.g. charter, individual fares, flat rates, point to point)
4. How will you be advertising the proposed service under the general authorization? Please provide a sample brochure outlining the proposed service.

* For more information on licensing, exclusions and exemptions, check out "[Do I need a General Authorization or Special Authorization Licence?](#)"

If you meet the requirements to maintain your GA licence you will need to continue to display both Special Authorization Vehicle Identifier (plate and decal) and General Authorization Vehicle Identifier (PT Reference Number) on each of your vehicles.

To cancel your GA licence, send us an e-mail with your renewal documents. Operators that chose not to renew their GA licence are required to remove the PT number from the PSB and need only to display the SA plate and decal.

If you are unsure, send an email to passengertransportationbr@gov.bc.ca describing the services you plan to provide and the vehicles you have in your fleet and we will assist you with determining your licensing requirements.

Regards,



Kristin Vanderkuip
Registrar and Director
Passenger Transportation Branch