

## INDUSTRY NOTICE

November 01, 2006

### Stretch Sport Utility Vehicle-Type Limousines

It has come to the attention of the Passenger Transportation Branch (Branch) that some owners/lessees of stretch Lincoln Navigator and Ford Excursion limousines may be providing, at the time they are registering the vehicles with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, seating capacity information which isn't consistent with the requirements of Section 10.06 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR). Specifically, that Section stipulates that the seating capacity must be calculated using the formula in the Regulations, which is based in part on the difference between the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating and the vehicle's net weight.

There are several reasons for the Branch needing to ensure that the seating capacity reflected on the Vehicle Registration conforms with this formula:

1. an artificially inflated seating capacity could pose a safety threat if the vehicle carries more passengers than the vehicle has been constructed to accommodate;
2. pursuant to the Passenger Transportation (PT) Act and Regulation, a commercial passenger vehicle which can accommodate more than eleven passengers (excluding the driver) can operate under the authority of a General Authorization (GA) licence, as opposed to a Special Authorization (SA) licence; as such, by having an inflated seating capacity on the Vehicle Registration, the potential exists for a GA licence to be issued when a SA licence is actually required; this would create an "unlevel playing field" because the GA licensee would have the flexibility to provide services anywhere in the province, charge their clients whatever rates they deem appropriate, and increase their fleet sizes as market demands change (provided the vehicles satisfy safety requirements), while those operating under a SA license are required to adhere to the operating parameters prescribed by the Passenger Transportation Board.

Detailed procedures for determining the seating capacity for individual vehicles, which include vehicles being weighed at area Weigh Scales, are currently being finalized. The specific requirements of vehicle owners/lessees in this process will be posted on this website once completed. In the interim, licensees who have this type of vehicle(s) as part of their licenced fleet at time of annual renewal of their PT Licence and/or those licensees who propose to add this type of vehicle to their fleet, will be contacted by the Branch to discuss the process for determining the seating capacity to ensure compliance with the MVAR following the review of your application. The same requirements will be applied to new applicants proposing to use these types of vehicles.

In the interim, should you have any enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact the Duty Inspector at the Branch's general information number (604 453-4250) or toll free (888 453-4280).