

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Information Bulletin – CPV44

Interstate bus and tourism operators

Introduction

Under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* (the Act), any person proposing to operate a vehicle for hire or reward in the Northern Territory (Territory) must first hold accreditation under the Act.

In addition to accreditation, a person is required to hold a licence for the type of commercial passenger vehicle (CPV) being operated e.g. tourist vehicle (TV) or motor omnibus (MO) licence.

In the spirit of enabling ease of cross-border movements for interstate CPV operators in and out of the Territory, the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director) has provided a conditional exemption from the requirement to hold accreditation and a licence under the Act, for eligible interstate bus and tourism operators.

Limited exemptions for interstate operators

These exemptions allow interstate bus and tourism operators to travel to, or through, the Territory as part of a cross-border tour or charter. Exemptions do not permit an interstate operator to operate solely within NT borders, and any journey made in the NT must start or finish, or, start and finish in another State or Territory.

Example 1: A Queensland operator may include travel through or into the Territory as part of cross-border tour package, provided travel in the NT does not exceed seven days and no passenger is offered travel exclusively within NT borders.

Example 2: A South Australian bus operator offers a scheduled, regular transport service from Darwin to Adelaide as one continuous journey, and passengers can board and disembark along the route of travel at pre-determined locations.

Where an operator complies with all conditions contained in the exemptions, they are deemed to be exempt from the requirement to hold accreditation as an operator and a licence to operate a CPV under the Act.

Conditions of exemption for the requirement to hold accreditation under Part 3 and to hold a motor omnibus licence under Part 6 of the Act are contained in Schedule A of this document.

Conditions of exemption for the requirement hold accreditation under Part 3 and to hold a tourist vehicle licence under Part 7 of the Act are contained in Schedule B of this document.

General information

Further information on the NT CPV Industry can be accessed at nt.gov.au/cpv.

Schedule A

Conditions of exemption for bus operators

1. The operator of the vehicle must hold the relevant operator accreditation, issued by the relevant State or Territory authority which substantially corresponds to accreditation issued under Part 3 of the Act.
2. The operator of the vehicle holds a licence to operate the vehicle, issued by the relevant State or Territory authority in which the vehicle is registered, and which substantially corresponds to a licence issued under Part 6 of the Act.
3. The vehicle is endorsed upon the interstate licence, and has affixed to it, registration plates of a unique design and make designated by the relevant interstate registering authority for a commercial passenger vehicle.
4. The vehicle is appropriately registered in a jurisdiction of Australia, other than the Northern Territory, and has a policy of insurance which covers any person for injury or loss suffered as a result of the operation of the vehicle.
5. The vehicle's journey either *starts or ends* or *starts and ends*, outside the borders of the Northern Territory; and
6. The vehicle is operated within the borders of the Northern Territory for no more than seven continuous days, and on the following conditions:
 - a. Any vehicle being operated under this exemption must be operated in accordance with the Act and the regulations made under the Act;
 - b. Any driver of a vehicle being operated under this exemption must either:
 - i. hold a licence to drive a commercial passenger vehicle of the type and class being driven, in compliance with the Motor Vehicles Act 1949 and the Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977; or
 - ii. be temporarily in the Northern Territory, and hold a licence or other permit or authority issued in another State or the Australian Capital Territory which permits them to drive a commercial passenger vehicle of the type and class being driven; and
7. A person must not use or cause or permit a vehicle being operated under this exemption to stand or ply for hire whilst in the Northern Territory, except at a bus stop designated by a competent authority for interstate bus travel.

Schedule B

Conditions of exemption for tourist vehicle operators

1. The operator of the vehicle must hold the relevant operator accreditation, issued by the relevant State or Territory authority which substantially corresponds to accreditation issued under Part 3 of the Act.
2. The operator of the vehicle holds a licence to operate the vehicle, issued by the relevant State or Territory authority in which the vehicle is registered, and which substantially corresponds to a licence issued under Part 7 of the Act.
3. The vehicle is endorsed upon the interstate licence, and has affixed to it, registration plates of a unique design and make designated by the relevant interstate registering authority for a commercial passenger vehicle.
4. The vehicle is appropriately registered in a jurisdiction of Australia, other than the Northern Territory, and has a policy of insurance which covers any person for injury or loss suffered as a result of the operation of the vehicle.
5. The vehicle's journey either *starts or ends* or *starts and ends*, outside the borders of the Northern Territory.

NOTE: No passengers are to be offered travel exclusively within the NT.

6. The vehicle is operated within the borders of the Northern Territory for no more than seven continuous days, and on the following conditions:
 - a. Any vehicle being operated under this exemption must be operated in accordance with the Act and the regulations made under the Act;
 - b. Any driver of a vehicle being operated under this exemption must either:
 - i. hold a licence to drive a commercial passenger vehicle of the type and class being driven, in compliance with the Motor Vehicles Act 1949 and the Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977; or
 - ii. be temporarily in the Northern Territory, and hold a licence or other permit or authority issued in another State or the Australian Capital Territory which permits them to drive a commercial passenger vehicle of the type and class being driven; and
7. A person must not use or cause or permit a vehicle being operated under this exemption to stand or ply for hire whilst in the Northern Territory.