

# Commercial Passenger Vehicles Information Bulletin – CPV12

## Private hire car licence

### Introduction

A private hire car (PHC) is a vehicle approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director) that is fitted, equipped or constructed to carry up to eight passengers.

A PHC is used to carry passengers for the purpose of hire or reward with the services of a driver.

### Requirements

#### To operate a private hire car

- To operate or register a PHC, you must be an accredited operator under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* (refer [Information Bulletin CPV01](#)).
- To apply for operator accreditation to operate a PHC, complete the application form [CPVF01 – Commercial Passenger Vehicle Operator Accreditation Application](#), and all other requirements as laid out in the application, then submit at your local Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) office with the prescribed fee.
- You must also complete the form, [CPV02 – Application for a Commercial Vehicle Licence](#) in addition to completing the application form CPVF01.
- You must keep records relating to the operation of the PHC as set out in the [Private Hire Car Regulations 1992](#).

#### To drive a private hire car

- To drive a PHC for the purpose of hire or reward, you must:
  - a) be the holder of a current driver's licence;
  - b) be the holder of a licence to drive CPVs ('h' endorsement); and
  - c) be the holder of a current CPV ID Card with Private Hire Car endorsed against the ID Card.
- Any person who drives a vehicle that is registered as a CPV must have zero blood drug and alcohol levels.
- No person is permitted to smoke in the PHC.

### Operating Conditions

- When applying for a PHC licence the person applying for that licence must be the same as the person who owns the vehicle.

- You must operate the PHC as set out in the current Private Hire Car Regulations 1992, Motor Vehicle (Hire Car) Regulations 1985, Commercial Passenger (Miscellaneous) Regulations 1992 and as set out in the PHC licence issued by the Director.
- If a PHC licence is expired for a period of more than three months it will be considered cancelled.
- There is provision to place a PHC licence on hold for an approved period (conditions apply) refer to [CPVF39 - Application to place an existing commercial vehicle licence \(CVL\) on hold](#).
- A PHC is only permitted to accept a hiring if it has been pre-booked unless the hiring commences from:
  - a rank established by the relevant competent authority; or
  - an event at a special function; or
  - an event approved by the Director (see below for a list of approved functions and events).
- The annual fee for a PHC licence is \$300 regardless of the region. A full payment of 12 months will apply to any new private hire car licence that is issued.
- PHC fares are not regulated by Government. The fare is to be negotiated between the hirer and the driver or network operator prior to the journey taking place. This may also include any Government imposed levy.
- An approved 'VACANT' sign may be displayed in a suitable location in or on a private hire car (but not limousine) only whilst parking or standing at any airport or railway station rank in accordance with [Private Hire Car In-Service Vehicle Maintenance Standards](#).
- The intended PHC must comply with all requirements as described in the Private Hire Car In-Service Vehicle Maintenance Standards.
- The operator of a commercial passenger vehicle must not allow the vehicle to be made available for hire or reward if the vehicle is unsafe. A vehicle is considered unsafe if it is likely to endanger the safety of any person, public safety or any property. Some examples of where a vehicle may be considered unsafe include; frayed seatbelts, dislodged or damaged panels, faulty airbags, bald or damaged tyres and misaligned or damaged door seals. Operators should have appropriate systems in place to ensure their vehicles are maintained in a safe condition.

Drivers also play an important part with monitoring vehicle condition and must check the vehicle prior to commencing each shift. Where the vehicle is found to be unsafe, the driver must immediately report the issue to the operator for rectification and cease operating. Substantial fines apply to both operator and driver found operating an unsafe vehicle for hire or reward. The vehicle may also be defected, necessitating a full roadworthy inspection.

## Approved functions and events

1. The arrival at any airport in the Northern Territory of passenger aircraft on international, interstate or intra-Territory flights.
2. The arrival at any railway station or passenger terminal in the Northern Territory of the Ghan passenger train.
3. The event known as the V8 Super Cars, held at the Hidden Valley motor sports complex.
4. The Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine and Tennant Creek Shows at the show grounds.
5. Any international cricket match (one-day or test) sanctioned by the Australian Cricket Board held at the Marrara Sporting Complex.

6. Any horse race meeting which is part of or known as the Darwin Cup Carnival, sanctioned by the Northern Territory Racing Commission, held at the Fannie Bay race track.
7. Any horse race meeting which is part of or known as the Alice Springs Racing Carnival sanctioned by the Northern Territory Racing Commission, held at Pioneer Park race track.
8. The event known as Bass-in-the-Grass located at the Darwin Amphitheatre.
9. Any sporting event at the Marrara Sporting Complex where at least one team is an International representative team or an Australian National premier team.
10. Lasseters Hotel Casino Alice Springs and Mindil Beach Casino Resort Darwin.
11. Any sporting event at the Anzac Oval or Trager Park where at least one team is an International representative team or an Australian National premier team.
12. Master's Games opening and closing ceremonies.
13. The event known as Carols by Candlelight held at the Anzac Oval.
14. The event known as Govey's Muster held at the RSL Club grounds.
15. The event known as Old Timer's Fete held at Old Timer's village.
16. Any major event held at Anzac Oval or Blatherskite Park.
17. The events listed on the Darwin Convention Centre website from time to time.
18. The Port of Darwin, Darwin Cruise Ship Terminal.

## General Information

- Any person who operates or drives a PHC must comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations and any Code of Conduct pertaining to PHC.
- For information on current legislation visit [www.legislation.nt.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nt.gov.au)
- For information on how to obtain a licence to drive CPVs see [Information Bulletin CPV05](#).
- For information on CPV ID Cards see [information bulletin CPV18](#).
- For information on the Code of Conduct see [information bulletin CPV32](#).

This Information Bulletin is a guide only and contains general information and requirements in relation to the CPV industry. This document should not be regarded as a strict interpretation of Northern Territory law and In-Service Maintenance Standards.

Contact Details – Commercial Passenger Vehicles	
Telephone:	08 8924 7580
Email:	<a href="mailto:cpv.admin@nt.gov.au">cpv.admin@nt.gov.au</a>
Web:	<a href="http://www.nt.gov.au/driving">www.nt.gov.au/driving</a>
Postal Address:	GPO Box 2520, Darwin NT 0801