

Special Function Vehicle Licence

Introduction

A special function vehicle is:

- a vehicle approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director);
- of a distinctive or unusual make or model or has a distinctive or unusual external appearance; and
- used to carry passengers for the purpose of hire or reward with the services of a driver.

Requirements

To Own/Operate a Special Function Vehicle

- To own/operate or register a special function vehicle, you must be an accredited operator under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act*. Once accredited, you are then required to apply for a special function vehicle licence.
- To apply for operator accreditation to operate a special function vehicle, complete the application form CPVF01, and all other requirements as laid out in the application, then submit at your local MVR office with the prescribed fee.
- Before a special function vehicle licence can be issued you must have your vehicle checked and approved by an MVR Transport Inspector and pay the prescribed fee (see the Operating Conditions section below).
- You must keep records relating to the operation of the special function vehicle as set out in the current Special Function Vehicle Regulations.

To Drive a Special Function Vehicle

- To drive a special function vehicle for the purpose of hire or reward, you must:
 - a) be the holder of a current driver's licence, and
 - b) be the holder of a licence to drive commercial passenger vehicles (CPVs) ('h' endorsement).
- Any person who drives a vehicle that is registered as a CPV must have zero blood drug and alcohol levels.

Operating Conditions

- A special function vehicle is only permitted to accept a hiring if the hiring is pre-booked and is for an approved function or event (see below).
- The Director has approved the following functions and events for special function vehicle operations:
 - a) weddings;
 - b) funerals;

- c) formals and graduation ceremonies conducted with the support of the Educational Institution; and
- d) national significant events – including Anzac Day Celebrations and Naturalization Ceremonies.

Note: This schedule is not exhaustive and the Director may amend this schedule from time to time. The Director will assess all applications for one-off special functions or events on a case by case basis.

- Upon completion of each job the special function vehicle is to return to the base of operation unless it is not reasonably practicable for the driver to do so before the next pre-booked journey.
- The application fee for a special function vehicle licence is \$300.00 per annum. A full payment of 12 months will apply to any new special function vehicle licence that is issued.
- Special function vehicle fares are not regulated by Government. The fare is to be negotiated between the hirer and the operator prior to the journey taking place.
- 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.

General Information

- Any person who operates or drives a special function vehicle must comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations and any Code of Conduct pertaining to special function vehicles.
- For information on how to obtain a licence to drive CPVs see Information Bulletin CPV05.

Resources

Listed below are resources that may provide assistance to you.

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Information

Information Bulletins and Forms: nt.gov.au/driving/industry/cpv-information-bulletins-and-forms

Legislation: www.legislation.nt.gov.au

Motor Vehicle Registry Information www.nt.gov.au/driving

Important

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 Vehicle Maintenance Standards.

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