

Courtesy Vehicle Licence

Introduction

A courtesy vehicle is a vehicle approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director), where the carriage is:

- offered as an inducement in respect of an agreement for the provision of accommodation or activities for recreation or pleasure, and
- provided to passengers without payment of a fare.

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

Deregulation of the Courtesy Vehicle Category

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Reform Package

On 22 February 2016, the Northern Territory Government announced the reform package for the commercial passenger vehicle (CPV) industry.

The CPV industry currently has nine different CPV categories, courtesy vehicle being one of them.

To reduce red tape where safety is not compromised, the NT Government decided to deregulate the courtesy vehicle category.

That means that current accredited operators who are licenced to provide a service under a courtesy vehicle licence will no longer be required to be approved or licenced.

To ensure the safety of passengers continues, all businesses that provide a courtesy service will still require their drivers to be appropriately licenced. This includes the normal fit and proper assessments undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics that provides drivers with an 'h' endorsement and CPV ID Card.

Current Accredited Operators

From 1 May 2016, all accredited operators that are licenced to provide a service under a courtesy vehicle licence will be exempt from meeting legislative requirements, including paying the annual courtesy vehicle licence fee.

This means you will no longer need to renew your:

- operator accreditation, unless you also operate under another CPV category i.e. tourist vehicle or taxi etc; and
- Commercial Vehicle Licence to operate a courtesy vehicle.

The vehicle/s licenced under the courtesy vehicle licence will not require CPV annual inspections and will be transferred to the normal five to 10 year inspection regime.

Relevant legislation is currently being reviewed and these new requirements will be included. Until that time, the Director is authorised to grant exemptions under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act* to implement these new provisions.

Businesses Wanting to Provide a Courtesy Service

New businesses wanting to provide a courtesy service will be required to ensure any driver of the courtesy service is appropriately licenced. Please refer to the section below 'To Drive a Vehicle that Provides a Courtesy Service'.

On-road audits will be undertaken by Department Compliance Inspectors to ensure drivers have a current 'h' endorsement on their driver's licence and a CPV ID Card. Heavy penalties will apply to both the business and driver who are not appropriately licenced.

It will also be the responsibility of the business to ensure all complaints relating to providing a courtesy service are addressed and appropriate records are maintained.

Vehicles Used to Provide a Courtesy Service

Vehicles used to provide a courtesy service will no longer be required to meet the Department's 'Northern Territory Courtesy Vehicle Requirements and In-Service Maintenance Standards'.

Also, the annual CPV vehicle inspections will no longer be required. Vehicles used to provide a courtesy service will be subject to the normal vehicle inspection regime. For further information on vehicle inspections please refer to the Motor Vehicle Registry website at nt.gov.au/driving/registration

Government issued CPV licence plates for the courtesy vehicle category will no longer be required. For businesses that already have these licence plates, these will be replaced with standard issue licence plates in due course.

Insurance Requirements

It is the responsibility of businesses that provide courtesy services to ensure vehicles used to provide a courtesy service have appropriate insurance which covers the vehicle, passengers, drivers, other members of the general public and other property in the event of an accident.

To Drive a Vehicle that Provides a Courtesy Service

To drive a vehicle that provides a courtesy service, the driver must:

- be the holder of a current NT driver's licence;
- be the holder of a NT licence to drive CPVs ('h' endorsement); and
- be the holder of a current NT CPV ID Card with courtesy vehicle endorsed against the ID Card.

Any person who drives a vehicle for a courtesy service must have zero blood drug and alcohol levels.

Operating Conditions

Payment must not be asked for or accepted by the driver for any trip in a courtesy service.

A courtesy vehicle is not permitted to tout or solicit for passengers.

A courtesy vehicle is not permitted to stand or ply for hire.

Appropriate records are to be maintained to assist with any complaint management or compliance investigation relating to providing a courtesy service.

General Information

Any person who drives a courtesy vehicle must comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations and any Code of Conduct.

For information on CPV ID Cards see Information Bulletin CPV18.

For information on how to obtain an 'h' endorsement to drive a courtesy vehicle please 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

General Information

Criminal History Checks: <https://forms.pfes.nt.gov.au/safent/>

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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