

Special Passenger Vehicle Licence (General Issue)

Introduction

A special passenger vehicle (SPV) is a vehicle approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director), that is used to carry passengers for hire or reward with the services of a driver.

A SPV is operated for a purpose that does not fall into any other category of commercial passenger vehicle (CPV). Individual assessment of the proposed service and vehicle suitability will apply (e.g. for a modified vehicle, limited operating areas and times).

For information on ridesharing transport services please refer to Information Bulletin CPV23 Ridesharing Licence (Special Passenger Vehicle).

Requirements

To Operate a Special Passenger Vehicle (General Issue)

To operate or register a SPV, you must be an accredited operator under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act*. Once accredited, you are then required to apply for an SPV commercial vehicle licence (CVL).

To apply for operator accreditation, complete the application form CPVF01, and include all other requirements as laid out in the application, then submit at your local MVR office with the prescribed fee.

You must provide the following information in your application:

- make and model of the vehicle,
- the intended operation of the SPV, and
- record keeping system.

If your application is successful you will be issued with a CVL. The conditions for the intended operations are as set out in your CVL.

Before a CVL can be issued you must have your vehicle checked and approved by an MVR Transport Inspector and pay the prescribed fee.

To Drive a Special Passenger Vehicle (General Issue)

To drive a SPV for the purpose of hire or reward, you must be the holder of a:

- current Northern Territory driver licence, appropriate to the class of vehicle being driven; and
- licence to drive 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 driver or operator of a SPV is not permitted to tout or solicit for passengers.
- A SPV must operate according to the conditions of the CVL.
- The annual application fee for a SPV CVL is \$150 regardless of the region. Each second or subsequent licence fee is \$25 per annum.
- 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 SPV must comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations, conditions of licence and any Code of Conduct pertaining to SPVs.

Resources

Listed below are resources that may provide assistance to you.

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Information

Information Bulletins and Forms: www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry/

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 Maintenance Standards.

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