

## Section 19 permits

Vehicles that carry paying passengers are called Public Service Vehicles (PSVs).

Ordinarily, any organisation that accepts payment for providing passenger transport must obtain a PSV Operator's Licence and in most cases drivers of such vehicles will require a PCV (Passenger Carrying Vehicle) entitlement on their licence.

The Section 19 permit scheme applies to non-profit making organisations.

### **Q: Who can apply for a permit?**

Any non-profit making body concerned with:

- Education
- Religion
- Social welfare
- Recreation (small bus permits only)
- Other activities of benefit to the community

### **Q: What size of vehicles may be covered by permits?**

Permits may be issued for:

- Small buses (i.e. minibuses) that can carry 9-16 passengers excluding driver. These permits are issued by Shropshire County Council.
- Large buses that carry 17 or more passengers excluding the driver. These permits are issued by the Traffic Commissioner.

### **Q: Will I need to display anything in the vehicle?**

For each permit granted a disc will be issued which must be displayed in the vehicle. You may move a disc from one vehicle to another as long as a small bus disc is not used with a large bus; however a large bus disc may be used with a small bus).

### **Q: Who can drive a permit bus?**

All permit bus drivers MUST be 21 or over.

a) Drivers who passed their test before 01 January 1997

Drivers who passed their car (category B) test before 01 January 1997 were automatically granted additional entitlement to drive mini buses with 9-16 passenger seats (category D1) not used for hire or reward. For as long as they hold D1 entitlement, these drivers may drive a 9-16 seat minibus of any weight used under a permit.

On expiry of the licence the D1 entitlement may be renewed provided the driver can meet the necessary standards of health (this involves a compulsory medical examination). Any driver who does not renew the D1 entitlement at age 70 but retains car (category B) entitlement may still drive a 9-16 seat minibus provided the conditions at (i) –(iv) in paragraph (b) are met.

b) Drivers who passed their test on or after 01 January 1997

Those who pass (ed) a car test on or after 01 January 1997 are no longer granted D1 entitlement. Their category B entitlement allows them to drive a vehicle with no more than 8 passenger seats. However, they may still drive a 9-16 seat minibus under a permit provided the following conditions are met:

- the driver has held a category B licence for at least 2 years.
- the driver receives no payment or consideration for driving other than out-of-pocket expenses.
- the minibus has a gross weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (4.25 tonnes including any specialised equipment for the carriage of disabled passengers).
- in the case of drivers aged 70 or over, they must be able to pass the medical examination referred to in paragraph (a) above.

**Q: Do the EC drivers' hours and tachograph rules apply?**

The EC drivers' hours and tachograph rules do not apply to drivers of minibuses with less than 17 passenger seats when operated solely within the UK, but they do apply to drivers of minibuses with 9 or more passenger seats when undertaking an international journey. These rules prescribe maximum limits on driving time and minimum requirements for breaks and rest periods, as well as the fitting and use of tachographs.

Minibuses with less than 17 passenger seats normally fall within the scope of the UK domestic drivers' hours rules, unless they are being used for private use or they are being driven by volunteer drivers. There are no record keeping requirements under these rules.