



This policy is developed pursuant to the Transport Coordination Act 1966.

# Private Taxi Licensing Policy

## 1. Overview

All vehicles operating for hire and reward in Western Australia must hold an appropriate licence issued by the State Government. The Passenger Services Unit (PSBU) manages the issuing of all licences for all passenger vehicles used for hire and reward.

PSBU issues four types of licences:

- Taxi Licence (Country and Metropolitan)
- Omnibus Licence
- Small Charter Vehicle Licence (SCV) - Metropolitan area
- **Private Taxi (PT) - Country areas**

Private Taxis (PT) - are passenger cars of a prescribed vehicle standard that (with the exception of some stretched/modified vehicles) are capable of carrying less than 12 passengers. They must be used solely for charter, with journeys commencing outside the Perth metropolitan area.

The PSBU does not restrict the number of PT licences that are granted.

**Applicants wishing to purchase a vehicle to operate on a PT licence are advised to contact a Client Service Officer on 1300 660 147 to ensure the vehicle is eligible for licensing as a PT and to discuss any other requirements that may apply.**

## 2. Operating conditions

PTs have a number of restrictions placed upon their operation to differentiate PT services from taxi services:

- PTs are a higher class of vehicle than is generally available as a taxi.
- PTs cannot operate from taxi ranks, 'ply for hire' or tout on roads or other public places for the purpose of hire.
- PTs must not display signage that presents it in a manner resembling a taxi.
- PTs are also differentiated from omnibuses:
- PTs must not operate along established omnibus routes with established pick-up and drop-off points; and
- PTs cannot operate off-road

## 3. Vehicle Standards

Specific vehicle standards apply for a vehicle to be registered as a PT. To standardise the application of PT policy with regard to vehicle standards, the PSBU has been guided by terminology applied by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) in relation to the terms passenger 'car' and 'luxury car'.

A PT must be:

Car - a vehicle designed for the principle purpose of carrying passengers (including paying passengers). A car includes vehicles for sport or recreation purposes, station wagons, passenger sedans, people movers and sports utility vehicles. It also includes



modified/stretched limousines irrespective of the number of passengers they are designed to carry.

Holden Statesman, Ford Fairlane and Toyota Tarago vehicles are considered acceptable PTs regardless of their purchase price. For all other vehicles with the exception of Classic / vintage vehicles and "Green" vehicles, a PT must also be a:

Luxury car - A car with a GST-inclusive value, excluding extras, above the luxury car tax (LCT) threshold. LCT is a tax of 25% imposed on luxury cars and is generally payable when the car is sold or imported at the retail level. The threshold figure at which the LCT applies is subject to movement by the ATO as at 1 July each year. It is currently \$57,466.

**Luxury Car Tax threshold figures**  
**Financial Year LCT threshold**

2000-2001	\$55,134
2001-2002	\$55,134
2002-2003	\$57,009
2003-2004	\$57,009
2004-2005	\$57,009
2005-2006	\$57,009
2006-2007	\$57,009
2007-2008	\$57,123
2008-2009	\$57,180
2009-2010	\$57,180
2010-2011	\$57,466

- **Vehicles appropriate for licensing as a PT include station wagons, passenger sedans, people movers, 4WD vehicles or sports utility vehicles that cost an amount (GST inclusive) equal to or greater than the LCT threshold figure when new.**
- **There is no maximum vehicle age limit for PTs.**

**3.1 Modified/Stretched Vehicles** A modified/stretched vehicle is a vehicle that has been modified so as to lengthen the vehicle's wheelbase by at least 500mm can be licensed as a PT.

**3.2 Non-standard vehicles** PSBU has received requests to licence vehicles as PTs whose configuration is non-standard, for example, vehicles with side-facing seats or left-hand drive vehicles.

The Australian Design Rules (ADRs) set out national design standards for vehicle safety and emissions that all vehicles must comply with. Compliance of vehicles with respect to national standards is ascertained by the Vehicle Safety Branch (VSB).

**Side-facing seats** - The ADRs with regard to the construction and installation of additional seats is set out in the Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) 5B. These guidelines do not preclude the installation of side-facing seats, however where they are installed, they must meet national standards of safety in terms of their construction and must be used in conjunction with an approved passenger restraint system.

Where the VSB is satisfied that a vehicle with a non-standard configuration is safe to be licensed, and the vehicle meets the PSBU's PT licensing criteria, the vehicle will be licensed as a PT by the PSBU.



**Left-hand drive vehicles** - From January 2003, new provisions took effect relating to LHD vehicles in WA. LHD vehicles imported into Australia generally need to be converted to right hand drive (RHD) before they can be registered if the vehicle was manufactured up to 15 years ago. If the vehicle is less than 4.5 tonne, and was manufactured more than 15 years ago, it may be possible to register it without the need for a RHD conversion. However, LHD vehicles must be intended for personal use only. With the exception of left hand drive vehicles, PSBU will licence as a PT any vehicle with a non-standard configuration that meets PT licensing criteria and has been passed by the Vehicle Safety Branch.

### 3.3 Classic/vintage vehicles

A classic/vintage vehicle is any vehicle older than 25 years of age.

- PSBU will licence as a PT any vehicle 25 years or older.
- The LCT threshold does not apply.

### 3.4 “Green” vehicles

Green vehicles are petrol-electric hybrids or alternative fuel passenger vehicles licensed for operation as PTs in the country. To ensure only those vehicles that represent significant environmental benefits are licensed, the vehicle must have an overall rating of 5-stars with respect to greenhouse gas emissions, fuel consumption and air pollution, as determined by the Federal Government’s Green Vehicle Guide ( [www.GreenVehicleGuide.gov.au](http://www.GreenVehicleGuide.gov.au) )

PSBU will licence any ‘green’ vehicle as a PT that has an overall rating of 5-stars as determined by the Green Vehicle Guide ( [www.GreenVehicleGuide.gov.au](http://www.GreenVehicleGuide.gov.au) ).

The LCT threshold does not apply.

### Schedule 1: PT vehicle categories and maximum ages

Group	Vehicle Category (description)	Maximum Age
A	<p><b>Luxury vehicles</b> Vehicles that cost at least the LCT Threshold of \$57,466.</p> <p>Note: the following vehicle(s) will always be included, irrespective of the LCT threshold figure:</p> <p>Ford Fairlane or LTD</p> <p>Holden Statesman or Caprice</p> <p>Toyota Tarago</p>	Unlimited
B	<b>Modified/stretched vehicles</b>	Unlimited
C	<b>Classic / vintage vehicles</b>	Unlimited
D	<b>“Green” vehicles</b>	Unlimited



#### **4. Accessibility requirements for small omnibuses**

The document ACCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL OMNIBUSES located at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/taxis](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/taxis) details the accessibility standards that apply to all small omnibuses, including SCVs.

The licensee must ensure compliance with the accessibility requirements for small omnibuses.

#### **5. Driver Licensing**

To drive a PT, a T extension is required on the motor driver's licence.

#### **6. Costs of Service – Minimum hourly rate**

Private taxi trips shall be charged according to the time occupied and the distance travelled during the trip, and at a minimum rate of 30% above the maximum taxi fare detention rate approved by the Department of Transport as provided under the Transport Co-Ordination Act 1966. A minimum of one hour must be charged per hiring.

#### **7. Other vehicle information**

Vehicles must pass a visual and mechanical inspection at an Authorised Inspection Centre.

Modified/stretched vehicles must be taken to the Technical Branch at Welshpool.

Vehicles will be issued with PT plates with red characters on a white background.