

Issuing of Public Transport Permits

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 47 (3 & 4) OF THE TRAFFIC LAW (2011), submitting an application to be considered by the Public Transport Board (PTB) DOES NOT guarantee your approval for a public transport permits.

Currently there is a quota set by Cabinet of 250 on taxi operator permits. All other categories are based on supply and demand. Each application is assessed on its own merit. There is no quota on drivers.

Applicant's Information

In accordance with section 4 (2)(a) of The (Public Passenger Vehicles) Regulation 2014 Revision (PPVR).

1. To apply for an **operator's permit**, the applicant **MUST** be **Caymanians** who is not less than twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. To apply for a **diver's permit**, the applicant **must not** be less than twenty-one (21) years of age.

Application Forms

3. **Form #17A (Owner/Operator)**. This form is used for persons wishing to own and operate their own business in the category of Tour, Taxi, Omnibus, Contract Hire or Limousine Service. **(The PTB do not grant dual permits).**
4. **Form #17 (Owner/Operator of Watersports only)**. This form is used for persons wishing to own and operate their own business in the category of Watersports.
5. **Form #17C (Drivers)**. This form is used for persons wishing to be employed by an existing operator in the category of Tour, Omnibus, Watersports, Contract Hire or Limousine Service. The Owner/Operator must also sign the Form in the column provided or alternatively, submit a letter indicating that you wish to employ the applicant.
6. **Form #19 (Medical Form)**. This form **must** be completed by an authorized Medical Practitioner, whom is to conduct a complete medical examination. The Medical Practitioner **must** indicate whether or not the applicant is fit to drive as specified on the form.
7. **Laboratory Test Request Form**. This form is to request a drug screening that **must** be done at the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority (CIHSA) **ONLY**.
8. **Payment Advisory Slip**. This slip advises the Department of Vehicle and Driver's Licensing (DVDL) the total amount of funds to be collected from the applicant for and on behalf of the PTU. This form **must** be stamped and signed by a PTU officer, otherwise it is deemed invalid.

In accordance with The Traffic (Public Passenger Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013

“(d) the application fee, **except** that an applicant who is a **Caymanian** shall be **exempt** from paying the application fee.” This means all **none Caymanian** applicants **must** pay the application fee as specified on the Payment Slip.

Upon approval by the PTB for a permit (operator or driver), the applicant will be required to pay a fee of CI\$50.00 for their photo I.D. which **must** be prominently displayed within the vehicle whilst operating.

General Knowledge Test

The General Knowledge Test is part of the application process and in accordance with The Traffic (Public Passenger Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014, **except school bus** applicants in all other categories **must** undergo such test and attain a score of 70% or above before their application can be considered by the PTB. Following successful completion of the test, the applicant has a minimum of **three (3)** months in which to submit a complete application to the PTB for consideration. The test result is **NOT** valid after the three months have passed.

Note: The General Knowledge test is conducted **twice weekly, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 – 11:30a.m.**

The applicant is advised to visit the PTU office between 8:30a.m. and 4:00p.m. Monday to Friday to make the necessary arrangements to sit the test. During this time he/she will receive a signed *Payment Slip* which will indicate the \$25.00 fee to be paid at the **Department of Vehicle and Drivers Licensing (DVDL).**

- There are three test papers in each category. (Taxi, Tour, Limousine, Omnibus, Contract Hire and Watersports)
- If unsuccessful with test paper #1 on the first attempt, the applicant may review the paper (**Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30**) and **repeat the same test paper** at a later date (a second try). *A fee of CI\$25.00 will be required to re-sit the test.*
 - You have 10 Minutes to review your exam.
 - A PTU officer will be with you at all times during review.
 - No writing or editing shall be made on the test paper or notes taken during review.

The General Knowledge test is also required from those persons who failed to renew their permits on or before the specified time as stipulated in the Traffic Law.

EXAMINATION STUDY MATERIAL

All questions found in the exams are derived from the following sources: -

- a. Approximately 65% comes from the **P.R.I.D.E. Know your Cayman Islands booklet**; this booklet is free of charge by attending a P.R.I.D.E. seminar or by purchasing from Department of Tourism at a cost of \$10.00. PRIDE seminars attendance is mandatory.
- b. Approximately 15% comes from the current **Traffic Law** & **Public Passenger Vehicles Regulations** (Purchased from the Legislative Assembly)
- c. Approximately 10% is of a **general nature, requesting the locations of well-established places/ sites of the three Islands.**
- d. Approximately 10% is to: - **Determine the applicant's ability to calculate monies.**

Process of Application:-

When a duly completed application has been received by the PTU, the receiving personnel are to inform the applicant that their application will be considered at the first available meeting. (Incomplete applications will be returned without being considered by the Public Transport Board)

After the PTB has considered an application, the results will be communicated to the applicant in writing. No decision of the PTB will be communicated to the applicant verbally. (Please ensure that your contact details are correct on the application form.)

Photo Identification cards

Photo Identification cards approved by the PTB for operators and drivers are colour coded:-

Taxi (bordered in **Green**)

Omnibus (bordered in **Black**)

Tour (bordered in **Red**)

Watersports (bordered in **Aqua**)

Limousine (bordered in **Yellow**)

Contract Hire (bordered in **Purple**)

The general information on categories of permits issued by the PTB: -

- a) **Taxi**: This type of permit is personal to the holder and therefore there is no distinction between the operator and the driver as they are one and the same. As such the PTB will not grant a separate permit for a different driver as allowed in other categories. **Only the operator is allowed to drive his/her taxi vehicle to ply for casual hire and the applicant must be a Caymanian.** Taxi vehicles have white plates with red lettering.

PART (I)-Introductory of the Traffic Law (2011) states:-

“Taxi” means a vehicle or horse-drawn vehicle constructed and used for the carriage of not more than fifteen persons, excluding the driver, which is permitted to stand or ply for casual hire for the conveyance of passengers and their luggage;”

- b) **Omnibus** This type of service permits the owner/operator, a Caymanian, to own and ply a specific route; the owner/operator may also hire driver/s that must first be approved by the PTB and be in possession of a valid photo Identification Card, all basic criteria to obtain a permit must be met. The vehicle will be registered as an Omni bus which has blue plates with white lettering.

PART (I)-Introductory of the Traffic Law (2011) states:-

“Omnibus” means a vehicle constructed or capable of being used for the carriage of more than nine persons, excluding the driver, which is licensed to carry passengers on a fare-paying basis or by private arrangement on a designated route approved by the Public Transport Board;”

- c) **Tour:** Under this category, the service is limited to prepaid and or arranged transportation that may include tours. The operator being a Caymanian is allowed to drive his/her tour vehicle; however, such an operator is entitled to hire driver/s. The driver/s must first meet the same basic criteria as their employer to make an application to be approved by the PTB. **It is an offence for anyone to drive a PT vehicle without an ID permit issued by the PTB.** This ID must be prominently displayed in the vehicle whilst engaged in carrying passenger for hire or reward. Tour plates are red plates with white lettering.

Section 4(4)(a) of the Public Passenger Vehicle Regulations (2014 Revision)

“4(4) For the purpose of paragraph (2)(j), the description of services for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward may be specified by the Board are –

- a) the provision of tours, whether or not pre-paid, for visitors to the Islands;”
- d) **Watersports:** The operator in this category **must** be a Caymanian. This type of service is the similar to tours above; however it is restrictive, and only permits the transportation of paying passengers to boats/vessels. **No land base tours are allowed.** The operator, being Caymanian is permitted to drive his/her vehicle; however, he/she is entitled to hire driver/s, the driver/s must also meet the same basic criteria as the employer before an application is submitted and approved by the PTB. **It is an offence for anyone to drive a PT vehicle without a valid ID permit issued by the PTB.** This ID **must** be prominently displayed in the vehicle whilst engaged in carrying passengers for hire or reward. Plates are Aqua with white lettering.
- e) **Contract Hire:** The operator in the category **must** be a Caymanian. Under this category, the service is limited to a contractual agreement between the person or company contracted to provide a transportation service. All payments are between the establishment and the contracted person/operator. The operator is entitled to hire driver/s as above and must first be approved by the PTB and be in possession of a valid photo Identification card issued by the PTB. ID cards must be prominently displayed in the vehicle whilst engaged in carrying passengers. Since there are no specific plates for this category in the regulations, the taxi plates are used, white plates with red lettering.

PART 1-Introductory of the Traffic Law (2011) states:-

“School vehicle” means a vehicle used for the conveyance of school children for hire or reward.

- f) **Limousine:** The operator in the category **must** be a Caymanian. The category of service is considered an up-scale version of the Taxi service, with one exception. The operator being a Caymanian is permitted to drive his/her vehicle; however, he/she is entitled to hire driver/s. The driver/s must also meet the same basic criteria as the employer before an application is submitted and approved by the PTB. **It is an offence for anyone to drive a PT vehicle without an ID permit issued by the PTB.** This ID must be prominently displayed in the vehicle whilst engaged in carrying passengers for hire or reward.

PART (I)-Introductory of the Traffic Law (2011) states:-

“Taxi” means a vehicle or horse-drawn vehicle constructed and used for the carriage of not more than fifteen persons, excluding the driver, which is permitted to stand or ply for casual hire for the conveyance of passengers and their luggage;”

Section 47 (1) of the Traffic Law (2011) states: - “No person may drive a public passenger-vehicle without a valid permit issued by the Board.”

51. (1) found on page 39 states “No vehicle, other than a public passenger vehicle when driven by a person holding a valid permit issued under section 47, may be used or offered for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward.”

51. (2) States “A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence.”

Note:

- Please ensure that your application form has been *duly filled out, signed and dated*.
The PTU staff is not allowed to complete your document/s on your behalf.
- The PTU **DOES NOT** make copies; neither provides/returns original documents after your application is submitted. However, PTU will make copies where necessary for office purposes. Please make copies of your documents prior to submission should you need them in the future.
- PTU officer, will stamp and date application (**Received**), photo copy front page of application form and give a copy to the applicant as a receipt.
- **Guide to follow is as follows: -**
 - a) **Operators:** - Are allowed to own, operate and drive any number of vehicles approved by the PTB. However, if an operator is applying for a driver to assist him, he is required to have a Trade & Business License (TBL), Pension and Health Insurance for his/her employees. In addition, the driver must also obtain a PTB ID before driving at PT vehicle.

- b) **Drivers:** - Are not allowed to own Public Transport Vehicles as their permit only allows them to drive for an authorized operator. An operator's permit must be current before a driver is issued or allowed to renew his/her permit.
- c) **Vehicles licensed in non-hire and reward category** (Church buses and privately owned vehicles) should be registered with private (yellow) plates. These vehicles are not allowed to be used as public transport vehicles. Please see a DVDL employee for further assistance.
- d) **Vehicles to be licensed in a hire and reward category.** The operator/owner must provide an approval letter from the PTB.
- e) **Vehicles to be re-licensed.** The operator must have a valid ID issued by the PTB.

Omnibus Routes are numbered and colour schemed as follows:-

Route #1	<i>Yellow, George Town to West Bay via Shedden Road</i>
Route #2	<i>Dark Green, George Town to West Bay via North Church Street</i>
Route #3	<i>Purple, George Town to West Bay via Mary Street</i>
Route #4A&B	<i>Cyan, is the George Town Jiffy's, George Tow Hospital/ Schools via Edward St.</i>
Route #5A	<i>Magenta, Airport/Industrial Park via Edward Street</i>
Route #5B	<i>Magenta, Industrial Park/Airport via Edward Street</i>
Route #7A	<i>Red, Through Crewe Road and Shamrock Road to East End first and then to North Side via the Queen's Highway</i>
Route #7B	<i>Lime Green, Through South Sound to East End first and then to North Side via the Queen's Highway</i>
Route #8A	<i>Orange, to North Side Cayman Kai via Crewe Rd</i>
Route #8B	<i>Lime green, to North Side Cayman Kai via South Sound</i>
Route #9A	<i>Dark Blue, to North Side first and then to East End via the Queen's Highway</i>
Route #9B	<i>Lime Green, South Sound to North Side first and then to East End via the Queen's Highway</i>

Cayman Brac

Route #1	<i>Cyan, is the Cayman Brac public bus. The Route is from Spot Bay to West End on the North Side and then to the South Side to Crawford Residence passing Brac Beach Resort (formely Brac Reef) The same colour as the George Town Jiffy.</i>
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