

NEW PCO NOTICES

PCO NOTICE 01/08

Passenger Receipts

Mary Dowdy, Head of Standards & Regulations at the PCO has issued a PCO Notice regarding receipts. In it she says: “The PCO recognises that receipts are an effective method of advertising and has itself promoted causes through this medium. However, when issuing receipts drivers are reminded that the advertisement of some products or services may cause offence to passengers.

“When providing drivers with receipt pads the PCO would encourage promoters to apply the same standards used for approving advertising on taxis and the reverse of printed taxi receipts.”

PCO NOTICE 02/08

LICENSING OF AMBULANCE SERVICES

In a second PCO Notice, Mary Dowdy deals with ambulance services which now fall within the meaning of a phv. Last year there was an amendment to the definition of a private hire vehicle; there is no specific exemption in PHV licensing legislation for an ambulance and the Government has no plans to introduce such an exemption.

Mary said: “The term ‘ambulance’ covers a wide range of vehicles but it is not the intention of Transport for London to license those vehicles that provide a genuine specialist or emergency service. In its guidance note dated 23 November 2007 on the impact of section 54 of the Road Safety Act 2006, the Department for Transport (DfT) provides guidance as to what services should legitimately be distinct from PHV licensing. The DfT guidance note can be found at dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/taxis/rsa06privatehirevehicles

In clarification of the DfT’s guidance note, the definition of ‘ambulance’ that the PCO will apply, is: A vehicle that falls within any of the following categories may be excluded from the London PHV licensing process.

1. A vehicle constructed or adapted for the purpose of the conveyance of recumbent persons in accordance with any relevant definition in Vehicle Construction and Use legislation.

Vehicles must have a rear compartment with a permanent means of conveying a person in a recumbent position, together with an attendant seat to accommodate the presence of a health professional. The words ‘Ambulance’ must be clearly signed on the front and sides of each vehicle. The vehicle should also be fitted with a blue warning beacon or a device which resembles a blue warning beacon (Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989, section 16).

Ambulances in the NHS, private, local authority, military and voluntary sectors that comply with this definition will be classed as emergency vehicles.

2. Specialist vehicles which do not meet the criteria in 1 above (for example ‘first response’ vehicles) but which are defined as emergency vehicles under section 16 of the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989 due to the fact that they are fitted with a blue warning beacon or a device which resembles a blue warning beacon.
3. Vehicles which operate as part of a formal, contracted, patient transport service, usually non-emergency and solely for the purpose of the planned transport of patients who have been assessed by a health professional as having a medical need for specialised transport to or from medical appointments. These vehicles must be constructed or adapted and used for no other purpose than the carriage of sick, injured or disabled people to or from medical appointments.



There are three key requirements for this category:

That the vehicle:

- a. is specifically constructed or adapted in some way for the purpose of the carriage of sick, injured or disabled people;
- b. has been booked because the person to be carried has been assessed by a health professional as having a medical need for specialist transport to or from medical appointments; and
- c. is not used for ‘social’ hirings.

These vehicles will be readily identifiable as used for the carriage of such people by being marked ‘Ambulance’ on the front and sides of each vehicle.

Vehicles may require the presence of a health professional.

Mary concluded: “Organisations that operate ambulance services and are affected by the change in the law are advised to obtain their own legal advice with regard to the need to be licensed.”

POLICE WITNESS APPEAL

At approximately 0612 hours on Saturday 14 April 2007, the body of Javaid Khan was found on the railway tracks approximately 400 yards east of Woodgrange Park Railway Station.

It is believed that he that he left Archway, North London at about 8 pm Friday 13 April and travelled by road to the Woodgrange Park area, East London arriving about 8:45pm.

Did you pick up Javaid Khan that evening or have any information that could help The British Transport Police please contact us on the numbers below.

Tel 0207 391 5275
Quote reference number: B5 – 7/6/07

OR

Crime stoppers
Tel 0800 555 111

