

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Transportation & Safety  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg PA 17105-3265  
(717) 787-3834 or FAX (717) 787-5961**

## **Fact Sheet for Pennsylvania Regulation of Intrastate Carriers of Passengers in Limousine Service**

### **Introduction**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission issues Certificates of Public Convenience authorizing intrastate limousine service for compensation. Intrastate service involves the picking-up and dropping-off of passengers where both the origin and destination points are in Pennsylvania.

An application must be filed and a certificate must be issued before service may be provided within the borders of the Commonwealth, with one exception – limousines offering service between points in Philadelphia comes under the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA). Contact PPA at (215) 683-9434.

Limousine carriers offer their customers luxury vehicles. Arrangements are made by advance reservation and the passenger has exclusive use of the vehicle.

A limousine carrier must provide service in a luxury vehicle that exceeds the ordinary level of accommodation found in other types of service such as taxi or paratransit. Vehicles such as Lincoln Town Cars and Cadillac DeVilles are examples of the minimum expected type of luxury vehicle acceptable for use in limousine service. By regulation the seating capacity of a vehicle used in limousine service cannot exceed 10 passengers, excluding the driver. Effective January 1, 2008, vehicles used in limousine service must be less than eight (8) model years old unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

### **Procedure**

An applicant must file a form with the Commission called a PA PUC Form 178 LM. A filing fee of \$350.00 is required at the time of filing with payment by certified check or money order payable to the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania”.

Notice of the application will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for public comment. Protests may be filed concerning the applicant’s technical and financial ability to provide the proposed service and the applicant’s propensity to operate safely and legally.

If protests are filed, the application will be assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for hearing. Unopposed applications will be considered using the Commission’s modified procedures.

## **Insurance**

A Pennsylvania limousine service must file evidence of insurance. The Commission requires all carriers to provide evidence of insurance by the filing of a Form E as proof of bodily injury and property damage insurance. A carrier's failure to maintain evidence of insurance can result in cancellation of its right to operate. If your insurance company subscribes to NOR (National Online Registries, Inc. at [www.mcinfo.org](http://www.mcinfo.org)), you can request the insurance company to file the required insurance forms electronically through NOR. The electronically filed insurance forms will reach the Commission more quickly than mailed forms.

## **Tariffs & Rates**

Limousine carriers must file a tariff containing their rates for service within Pennsylvania. Carriers operating in limousine service may request a change of their rates upon one-day notice by the filing and approval of a new tariff. The carrier may consider the tariff approved upon filing unless advised otherwise by the Commission.

## **Assessments**

Limousine carriers are subject to an annual assessment based on their reported gross operating revenue from Pennsylvania business. You are mailed a form each year to complete and return to the Commission by March 31. From the information provided an assessment is calculated and an invoice is mailed back to you.

## **Safety**

Carriers must comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's vehicle equipment requirements. The Commission has adopted additional motor vehicle regulations at 52 Pa. Code, sub-chapter E, §§29.401 through 29.407.

## **Other General Requirements**

All carriers have an obligation to inform the Commission in writing of any change of address. This is especially important to the carrier as information concerning insurance and other matters is routinely mailed to the carrier. Additionally, carriers must advise the Commission of their intention to discontinue or abandon motor carrier service.

## **Contacting the Commission**

All correspondence may be mailed to the Commission as follows:

The Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

## **Fines and Penalties**

The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that carriers operating under its authority are properly insured, meet our customer service standards, and are in compliance with

our safety regulations. Carriers under our jurisdiction are subject to fines and other penalties when violations of our regulations occur. Fines range from \$50.00 to \$1,000.00 per violation depending on the severity of the violation.

### **Vehicle Registration, Driver Licensing, Special Permits**

All carriers must register their vehicles with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) for commercial limousine registration plates (LM). Regular plates cannot be used on vehicles operating under PUC jurisdiction. PennDot has jurisdiction over the issuance of vehicle registration plates and driver licenses. PennDot can be reached at 1-800-932-4600.

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Important Telephone Numbers**

Our staff welcomes your questions; you may telephone the listed numbers for additional information or assistance:

Application filing	717-787-3834
Tariff filing	717-787-5945
Insurance Filing	717-787-1227
Safety Office	717-772-2254
Compliance Office	717-787-1168

### **Minimum Limits of Insurance**

#### **Carriers of Passengers**

The minimum insurance limit is dependent upon the manufactured rated seating capacity of the vehicle. Carriers operating any vehicle of

15 passengers or less:

- (a) \_\_\_ \$35,000 to cover liability for bodily injury, death or property damage incurred in an accident (BIPD).
- (b) \_\_\_ \$25,000 first party medical benefits, \$10,000 first party wage loss benefits, and conforming to 75 PA C.S. §§ 1701 - 1798 (relating to Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law).
- (c) \_\_\_ First party coverage of the driver of certificated vehicles shall meet the requirements of 75 PA C.S. § 1711 (relating to required benefits).

Revised 4/09.