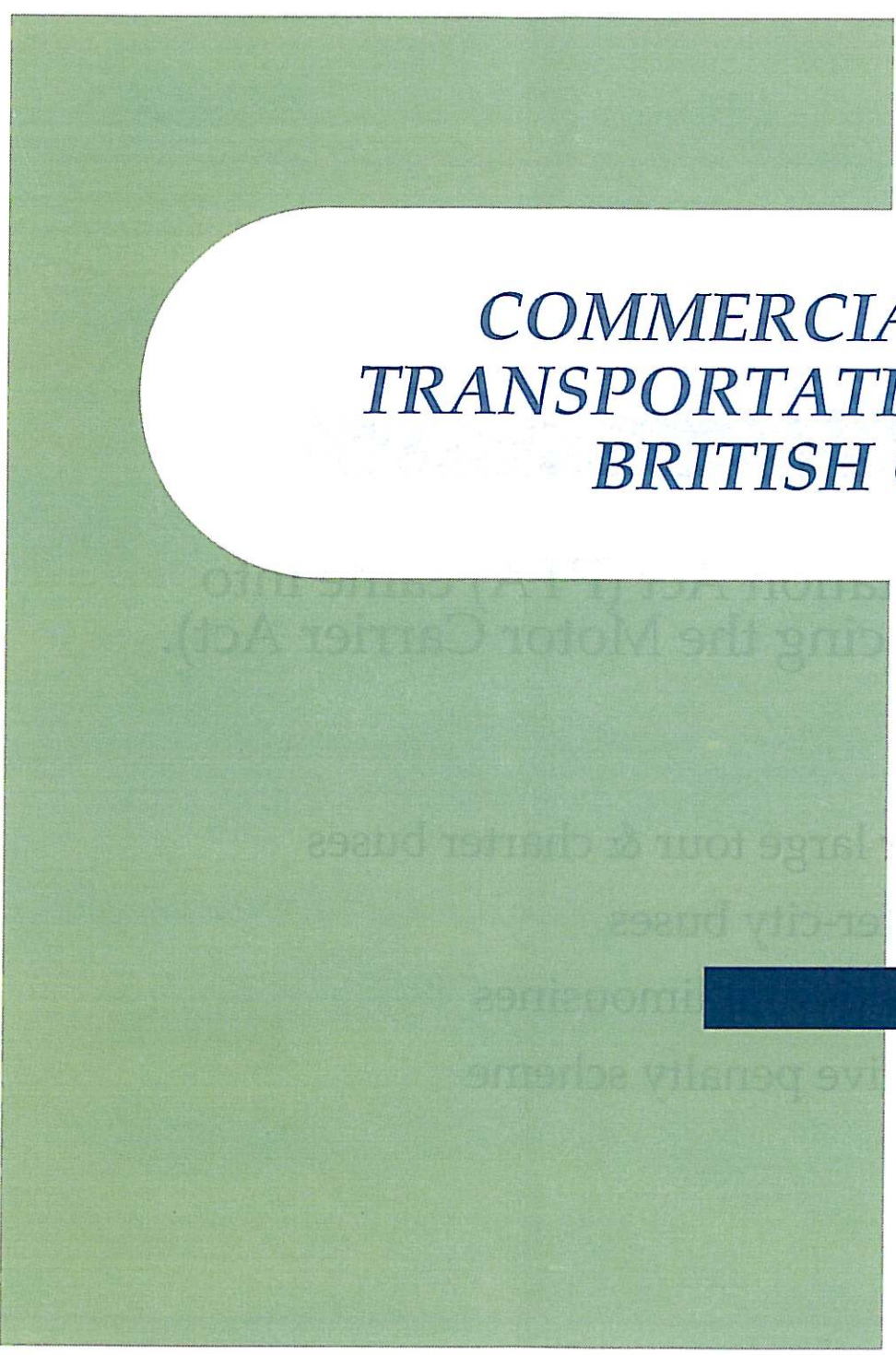


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COMMERCIAL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION LICENSING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

OVERVIEW March, 2008

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Introduction

- The Passenger Transportation Act (PTA) came into effect in June 2004 (replacing the Motor Carrier Act).
- The PTA:
 - ♦ Streamlines regulation for large tour & charter buses
 - ♦ Reduces regulation for inter-city buses
 - ♦ Continues regulation of taxis and limousines
 - ♦ Introduces an administrative penalty scheme

Administration

- Administration of the Passenger Transportation Act is a joint responsibility of the *Passenger Transportation Board*, a quasi-judicial body, and the *Registrar of Passenger Transportation* (who leads the Passenger Transportation Branch of the Ministry of Transportation)

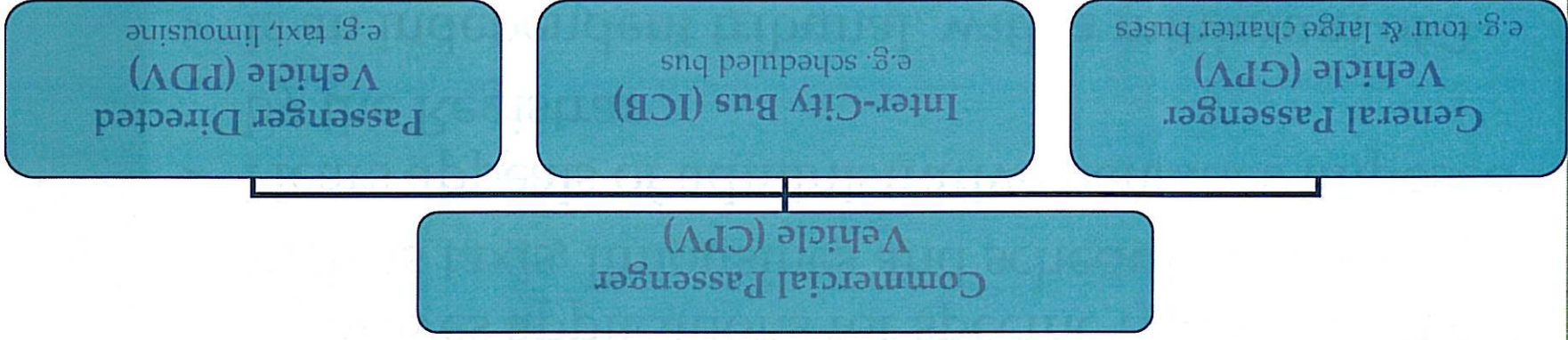
Registrar & Passenger Transportation Branch

- Accept all licence applications
- Issue all passenger transportation licences
- In cooperation with partner agencies (police and the Ministry of Transportation's commercial vehicle inspectors) undertake compliance actions against both licensed carriers and unlicensed operators.
- Manage an administrative penalty scheme for licensees who are not in compliance with their terms and conditions of licence.

Passenger Transportation Board

- Approves applications for specific types of licences such as taxis, limousines and scheduled buses
- Hears appeals of administrative penalties imposed by the Registrar
- Is an independent tribunal, with a minimum of 3 part-time members who are appointed by Cabinet.

Types of Commercial Passenger Vehicles under the PTA



Licensing Approvals

1. **General Passenger Vehicles** – applications are approved by the Registrar of Passenger Transportation
2. **Inter-City Buses and Passenger Directed Vehicles** – applications are approved by the Passenger Transportation Board

Exemptions & Exclusions

- The PTA regulations exclude some vehicles from the definition of ICB or PDV. These excluded vehicles are then considered general passenger vehicles.
 - ♦ E.g. Airport connector buses; Scheduled Sightseeing buses; Car and van pool vehicles

- The PTA regulations exempt some vehicles from licensing requirements.
 - ♦ E.g. vehicles operated by municipalities within the municipality; hearses and funeral vehicles; vehicles used for care-giving where no charge is specified for transportation; school buses

General Passenger Vehicles (GPV)

- GPV is any commercial passenger vehicle that is not an inter-city bus or passenger directed vehicle.
 - ◆ Operators must meet safety requirements
 - ◆ Operators must not be subject to enforcement/ compliance action

- GPVs may operate
 - ◆ anywhere in the Province
 - ◆ set own rates
 - ◆ manage fleet size

Inter-City Bus (ICB)

➤ ICBs operate

- On set time schedule between prescribed municipalities (other than GVRD or CRD)
- For individual fares
- Over a regular route
- Between fixed terminating points, picking up and dropping off passengers at intermediate points, as necessary

Passenger Directed Vehicles (PDV)

➤ PDVs

- ♦ accommodate a driver and not more than 11 passengers
- ♦ is operated to and from locations determined by or on behalf of the passengers

➤ Common examples of PDVs:

- ♦ taxis, limousines, small charter or shuttle vans

Approvals of Applications by Board

➤ The Board may approve ICB and PDV applications if it considers:

1. There is a public need for the service;
2. The applicant is fit & proper and capable of providing the service; and
3. The application promotes sound economic conditions in the transportation business

Terms & Conditions of Licence

- PT Board sets terms and conditions for operations.
E.g.:
 - ♦ Passenger pick-up & drop off locations for taxis and limos
 - ♦ Maximum fleet size for taxis and limousines
 - ♦ Minimum route frequencies for inter-city buses
- PT Board approves or sets rates for taxis and limousines

Sanctions under the PTA

➤ Unlicensed operators – fine is \$1150 per day

➤ Other offences - fine is \$288.

➤ Administrative fines up to \$1500, licence or vehicle suspension, licence cancellation for licensees. (This is administered by the Registrar and Passenger Transportation Branch)