

**Waiver of Licence Fee under  
Road Traffic (Passenger Service Licence Fee Concessions) Regulation 2009**

The Financial Secretary on 26 May 2009 announced a package of relief measures, including the waiving of Passenger Service Licence (PSL) and Passenger Service Licence Certificate (PSLC) fees for one year *from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (both dates inclusive)*, to alleviate the burden of the people of Hong Kong and certain sectors that are most seriously affected by the economic downturn and human swine flu. All *public light buses, school private light buses, non-franchised public buses and private buses providing student service* will be covered by this package of relief measures.

**Waiver of PSL and PSLC Fees**

**(A) Waiver of PSL and PSLC Fees Payable**

**Eligibility Criteria**

1. The waiver of PSL and PSLC fee applies to the following vehicle classes:
  - (i) non-franchised public buses;
  - (ii) private buses providing student service [i.e. private bus with Student Service (B01) Endorsement];
  - (iii) public light buses; and
  - (iv) school private light buses
2. The total amount of fees for PSL(s) in respect of the above vehicles bearing the same PSL number which take effect during the concession period will be waived for a maximum of 12 months (i.e. HK\$396).
3. The total amount of fees for PSLC(s) in respect of the above vehicles bearing the same PSL number issued to the same vehicle and providing the same type service (scheduled / non-scheduled) which takes effect during the concession period will be waived for a maximum of 12 months (i.e. HK\$160).

**How to Apply for the Fee Waiver**

If a PSL holder is eligible for the waiver, the fee concerned will be automatically waived when he/she is granted with a PSL/PSLC during the concession period. No application for the fee waiver is required.

## Other Related Questions

Q1. *How long the period of PSL & PSLC fee waiver is?*

- ◆ **The fee waiver lasts for one year from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (both dates inclusive).**

Q2. *What is meant by “effective date” in respect of the fee waiver period? What is the relationship between PSL (& PSLC) and the effective date? If the same PSL is issued at different points of time within the concession period, is the PSL holder still eligible for the fee waiver?*

- ◆ **In accordance with the definition in s.2 of the “Road Traffic (Passenger Service Licence Fee Concessions) Regulation 2009”, the “effective date” means the date from which a PSL/PSLC takes effect. In other words, the PSL/PSLC must take effect during the concession period in order to be eligible for the fee waiver.**

**If the same PSL is issued at different points of time within the concession period, the PSL holder concerned is eligible for the fee waiver on a pro-rata basis. For example, a PSL takes effect on 1.7.2009 with validity up to 30.9.2009. The PSL holder is eligible for 3-month waiver of the fee concerned. However, the holder has not extended the validity of his PSL immediately upon expiry. Instead, the PSL is extended on 1.12.2009 for one year up to 30.11.2010. Since the PSL holder has already enjoyed the waiver of 3-month PSL fee, he is only eligible for the fee waiver for the remaining 9 months in respect of the same PSL despite it has been extended for another one year. In gist, the fee waiver in respect of the same PSL is capped at HK\$396, a maximum of 12-month fee payable.**

Q3. *Is a private bus with no student service (B01) endorsement eligible for PSL & PSLC fee waiver?*

- ◆ **No.**

Q4. *For a non-franchised public bus which is issued with both scheduled and non-schedule PSLCs, whether both PSLCs are subject to the fee waiver?*

- ♦ **Yes. Both scheduled and non-scheduled PSLCs are each subject to the fee waiver once and for all.**

Q5. *I bought a non-franchised public bus from another operator. The PSLC issued for my public bus takes effect within the concession period. Could I enjoy the fee waiver for the PSLC?*

- ♦ **Yes. The PSLC holder is eligible for the waiver once and for all upon the issue of the PSLC.**

Q6. *I am a Public Light Bus operator and have paid the fee required for the issue of a PSL and a PSLC in respect of the PLB. Both have a validity period longer than 12 months and the effective date(s) will fall into the concession period. How can I enjoy the waiver?*

- ♦ **Both the PSL and the PSLC are eligible for the fee waiver. The PSL holder can submit an application for refund of the fee concerned. Upon approval, the fees will be refunded to the holder.**

Q7. *For a PSL to be issued for a period of 18 months, how much fee will be waived or need to be paid by the holder if he is eligible for the waiver?*

- ♦ **The fee to be waived is HK\$396, i.e. fee for 12 months. The holder needs to pay the fee still has to be paid is the fee for 6 months (i.e. 18 months minus the waived 12 months).**

## **(B) Refund of Paid PSL/PSLC Fee**

Refund of paid PSL/PSLC fee may arise in the following circumstances –

- (i) a PSL has been issued with a validity covering the entire concession period (i.e. the period *from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, both dates inclusive*) for which the licence will not be due to expire during the concession period, and a refund will be needed as the paid PSL fee for 12 months is subject to waiver; or
- (ii) PSLs or PSLCs have been issued before the commencement of the concession period with the effective date(s) falling into the concession period, a refund will be needed as the holder has paid the fees concerned.

To facilitate PSL holders to enjoy the fee waiver promptly, the Transport Department (TD) will send a letter to eligible holders, together with a return slip for request of refund. The holder is asked to complete the slip and return it to the Public Vehicles Unit of Transport Department *during the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (both dates inclusive)*.

**By Post: The Public Vehicles Unit of Transport Department  
3/F United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong**  
**By Fax: 2865 1227**

**(Please state “Application for Refund of Paid Passenger Service  
Licence / Passenger Service Licence Certificate Fee” on the envelope)**

Upon receipt of the completed return slip, TD will process the request for refund in accordance with the prescribed criteria and, if approved, arrange the refund of fee accordingly. **Please note that late applications will not be accepted.**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- (1) The person eligible for refund of paid PSL/PSLC fee should be the licensee of PSL for the following vehicles:
  - (i) non-franchised public buses;
  - (ii) private buses providing student service [i.e. private bus with Student Service (B01) Endorsement]; and
  - (iii) public light buses

- (2) The PSL/PSLC concerned should have a validity period longer than 12 months, with the start date falling on or before 30 June 2009 and the expiry date on or after 30 June 2010, and the PSL/PSLC should have been issued before 1 July 2009 and takes effect in the period between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010;
- (3) For each PSL eligible for the waiver, the amount to be refunded is calculated on a pro-rata basis by reference to the length of its validity period, i.e. a maximum of fee for 12 months at the amount of HK\$396 can be refunded. For PSLC eligible for the waiver, the refund of fee is once and for all, i.e. HK\$160;
- (4) The lead time for processing an application for refund of PSL/PSLC fee is about 1 to 2 months. Upon approval, refund of fee by cheque will be sent to the holder concerned by post to the holder's address registered with TD.

### **Other Related Questions**

*Q1. Is a private bus with no student service endorsement eligible for the refund?*

- ◆ **No.**

*Q2. Is a private bus eligible for a refund of PSL fee if it is providing other services in addition to student service (B01)?*

- ◆ **Yes. The private bus will be eligible for fee refund for a maximum of 12 months subject to its meeting the eligibility criteria.**

*Q3. The PSL in respect of my public light bus is valid for 2 years and it will not be due to expire during the concession period. Can I receive a refund?*

- ◆ **Under the waiver scheme, the PSL concerned is subject to a refund of fee in a maximum period of 12 months at the amount of HK\$396.**

*Q4. Will the refund be arranged to a person or a company other than the PSL holder?*

- ◆ **No. The payee on the crossed cheque must be the PSL holder.**

*Q5. I am a PSL licensee of public light bus. My PSL start date is 15 April 2009 and the end date is 14 April 2011. I lost my PSL and paid HK\$125 for a duplicate of the PSL. If I apply for refund of PSL fee, what amount will I be refunded?*

- ◆ **Only 12-month PSL fee, i.e. HK\$396, will be refunded to the applicant upon application. The fees for issue of a duplicate PSL is not refundable.**

### **Enquiries**

- Enquiries concerning the waiver or refund of PSL/PSLC fees can be made to Mr YEUNG of the Public Vehicles Unit of the Transport Department at 2804 2569 or at the Public Vehicles Unit of the Transport Department, 3/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Transport Department

11 February 2010