

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

PSL No.

Date of Issue

Conditions for the Operation of Public Light Bus (Scheduled) Service

- (1) Operation of the approved Public Light Bus (Scheduled) Service as specified in this licence (hereafter known as the scheduled service) is to be in accordance with specified Schedules of Service which define the routes, timetables, faretables and vehicle allocation. Details of the current Schedules of Service pertaining to the approved scheduled service are annexed to the licence. The licensee may not vary the operation of the scheduled service without the prior approval of the Commissioner for Transport. The Commissioner for Transport may, after consultation with the licensee, by giving 3 months' notice in writing to the licensee, either personally or by registered post, amend the conditions by a variation in the route, timetable, vehicle allocation, fares and stopping places whenever in his opinion circumstances so require.
- (2) Whenever circumstances beyond the control of the licensee so require, the licensee may cause a public light bus to be diverted from a specified route for so long as such circumstances continue to so require, provided that:
 - (a) the Commissioner for Transport may require the licensee to submit to him within a reasonable period a written explanation of the circumstances requiring the licensee to cause a public light bus to be diverted from a specified route in any particular case;
 - (b) if the Commissioner for Transport is not satisfied in any particular case with an explanation given to him under subsection (a), he shall note this on his records and advise the licensee accordingly; and
 - (c) any diversion of a public light bus from a specified route for which an unsatisfactory explanation is given or no written explanation is given within reasonable period by the licensee shall be deemed to be a breach of the conditions on the part of the licensee.
- (3) The licensee will be requested to provide details of the vehicles to be used on the scheduled service. A fleet list of the licensed public light buses authorised by the Commissioner for Transport for use on the scheduled service will be maintained. No public light buses other than those on the approved list may be used. The licensee should not use any of the public light buses shown on the list for the provision of any service other than on the authorised routes. If the licensee wishes to replace any of the listed public light buses by other licensed public light buses, the licensee should apply in writing *with good reasons* to the Commissioner for Transport who, at his absolute discretion, may approve or reject the application.
- (4) All public light buses for the provision of scheduled service have to be painted with such colour or colour scheme as specified by the Commissioner for Transport either in writing or by notice in the Gazette.
- (5) The current designated stopping places for the scheduled service are detailed in the Schedules of Service and the vehicles may pick up/set down passengers at these locations. The Commissioner for Transport reserves the right to change any of the designated stopping places in accordance with Clause (1).
- (6) To enable the vehicles to pick up/set down passengers at designated stopping places and enter certain closed roads/prohibited zones detailed in the Schedules of Service, the necessary permits covering the public light buses shown on the approved fleet list mentioned in Clause (3) above will be issued. The permits shall be effective only when the permit is displayed on the windscreen of the vehicle. The permits are not transferable and must be returned to the Commissioner for Transport on demand or on expiry. Permits may be amended if alternative picking up/setting down locations or termini are provided. Permits may be revoked if the licensee breaches any of the operating conditions.
- (7) The licensee is required to provide the Commissioner for Transport before 30 June an annual financial account in a form prescribed by the Commissioner for Transport for the financial year ending 31 March of that year in respect of the approved scheduled service that the licensee operates and the following monthly traffic operating returns before the 15th day of the following month:
 - (a) Number of public light buses in service;
 - (b) Kilometrage operated by each such vehicle;
 - (c) Number of passengers carried; and
 - (d) Revenue received.
- (8) The Commissioner for Transport may cancel this licence if it is evident that without good cause the licensee has failed to maintain a proper and efficient public light bus (scheduled) service in accordance with the conditions of this licence after having served on the licensee a notice requiring the licensee to show cause in writing, within 21 days after the service of such notice, why the licence for the operation of the public light bus (scheduled) service should not be cancelled.
- (9) The approved scheduled service in a package under this licence may be terminated by the licensee in whole by giving to the Commissioner for Transport not less than six months' notice in writing of such determination. Consequential upon the cessation of the service, the licensee should return the licence to the Commissioner for Transport for cancellation/amendment.
- (10) The vehicles registered under this particular Passenger Service Licence for Public Light Bus (Scheduled) Service shall not be included in any other valid Passenger Service Licence.
- (11) The licensee shall not hinder the transfer of any partner's, director's, shareholder's or hirer's vehicle from the service and the licensee shall present the Passenger Service Licence for Public Light Bus (Scheduled) Service for amendment by the Commissioner for Transport if demanded.
- (12) The licensee shall ensure that the vehicles in use are kept in a clean and tidy condition and are regularly maintained to the satisfaction of the Commissioner for Transport.

- (13) The Commissioner for Transport, and any person authorized in writing by him, may at all reasonable times inspect:
- (a) any premises used by the licensee in connection with the scheduled service and all facilities provided by the licensee for the construction, repair, parking and maintenance of vehicles so used by the licensee; and
 - (b) any vehicle used by the licensee in connection with the scheduled service.
- The licensee shall afford such facilities for the inspections referred to in subsections (a) and (b) as may be required by the Commissioner for Transport.
- (14) The licensee shall employ an adequate number of staff to ensure the proper operation and regulation of the service in accordance with the Schedules of Service approved by the Commissioner for Transport.
- (15) The licensee in the event of being an individual person shall be the registered owner of at least one public light bus within the approved fleet of vehicles providing the scheduled service, failing which the Passenger Service Licence in respect of the scheduled service may be revoked.
- (16) No advertising in or on any of the public light buses providing the scheduled service is permitted save with the written approval of the Commissioner for Transport.
- (17) The licensee is required to retain records of vehicle maintenance (including both routine servicing and unscheduled repairs) for a period of two years and to produce them if requested by the Commissioner for Transport or his representative. The definition of records of vehicle maintenance (including both routine servicing and unscheduled repairs) for each public light bus means:
- (a) in the case of repairs or servicing carried out by a commercial garage:
 - (i) Copy of the service record detailing all work carried out, as provided by the garage on each occasion; and
 - (ii) Copy of the schedule of spare parts used by the garage in carrying out any work on each occasion.
 - (b) in the case of repairs or servicing carried out by an operator or his staff:
 - (i) Copy of the servicing schedule or job repair order including the signature and name of the mechanic or supervisor responsible for satisfactory completion of these sheets, where available; or
 - (ii) Details of work carried out giving date, registration mark of the vehicle, work done and signature and name of the mechanic or supervisor responsible for satisfactory completion of this work; and
 - (iii) Details of all spare parts used in completing the work mentioned in (i) and (ii) above.
- The records may be kept in English or Chinese as preferred by the licensee.
- (18) All public light buses used for the provision of the scheduled service shall be equipped with air conditioning.
- (19) Except for public light buses registered before 15 August 2017 serving in routes of the scheduled service gazetted before 1997, all public light buses used for the provision of the scheduled service shall be installed with passenger call-bells which when pressed will give a signal to a driver of a public light bus to stop his vehicle at the next stop to allow passengers to alight. The passenger call-bells on the public light buses registered on or after 15 August 2017 shall be installed together with an indication light, which lights up when a call-bell is pressed. The indication light shall be installed near the driver's seat inside the vehicle compartment.
- (20) All public light buses used for the provision of the scheduled service shall be driven only by persons in the employ of the licensee.
- (21) The licensee shall cause to be displayed inside every public light bus used for the provision of the scheduled service a driver identity plate in a format and in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner for Transport.
- (22) The licensee shall to the satisfaction of the Commissioner for Transport implement any plans and commitments as detailed in his application for operating right of the scheduled service, or as agreed between the licensee and the Commissioner for Transport during the course of this licence.
- (23) Without limiting the effect of any other conditions of this licence, the registered owner of any public light bus used on the scheduled service is permitted to hire the public light bus under and in accordance with Regulation 38 and Regulation 39 of the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) Regulations.
- (24) The licensee shall cause to be displayed inside every public light bus used for the provision of the scheduled service a sign in a format and in a manner to be specified by the Commissioner for Transport showing the hotline number of the licensee; and Transport Complaints Unit's hotline number and its email address.
- (25) All public light buses used for the provision of the scheduled service shall be, in addition to equipment for collecting fares paid in cash, installed with an electronic payment system to be specified by the Commissioner for Transport, by means of which passengers may pay fares electronically.
- (26) The licensee is required to implement the "Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities" (hereafter known as the Scheme) for all route(s) authorised in this licence and to make all technical and operational arrangements to satisfy the basic requirements for implementing the Scheme.
- (27) The licensee is required to provide the route service information in both Chinese and English at the termini and enroute stops along the route of the scheduled service.
- (28) The licensee shall ensure that a public light bus used for the provision of the scheduled service, which is registered on or after 15 August 2017, shall be equipped with the following service enhancement facilities:
- (a) handles to be installed at the top corner (facing the aisle) of the aisle seats inside the vehicle compartment.