

Departmental Sale of Limousine Service Licences

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: What is a Limousine Service?

The *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* (TOPTA) defines a limousine service as an unscheduled public passenger service provided by a luxury motor vehicle, where the agreed fare for a journey is decided before the journey begins.

‘agreed fare’ means a pre-determined and defined monetary amount that covers the full cost of the service to be provided and is agreed to by the customer prior to the journey commencing. No part of the fare can be determined by any method of calculation (such as a meter) or added to the total cost of the fare during the period of, or at conclusion of the journey.

Question 2: What is a Limousine Service Licence?

A Limousine Service Licence is a licence authorising the holder to provide a limousine service in a specific area, subject to certain conditions.

The operation of these licences are designated to specific areas:

- Whole of Queensland;
- Rest of Queensland; and
- Regional Limousine Service licences operating in Capricornia, Far North Queensland and North Queensland.

A number of standard conditions apply to the operation of Limousine Service Licences including:

- only picking up within the applicable Limousine Service Area;
- not operating a limousine service unless an earlier booking has been made, except when operating from an approved rank, for approved fares to set destinations.
- using a luxury motor vehicle of a type approved by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), and
- displaying a distinctive registration plate (LNNNNN)

Question 3: What vehicles are allowed to operate on a Limousine Service Licence?

A limousine service must only be operated by a luxury motor vehicle as defined in section 105 of schedule 4 of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005*.

Question 4: Who can purchase a Limousine Service Licence and is there a limit to how many an operator can own?

Any legal entity, for example: an individual, a partnership, company or trust, which has Operator Accreditation (OA), can purchase a Limousine Service Licence.

There is no limit on the number of Limousine Service Licences a person may hold.

Question 5: How can I obtain a Limousine Service Licence?

Limousine Service Licences can be purchased from TMR by applying at your local TMR Customer Service Centre (CSC) or Passenger Transport (PT) Office.

Limousine Service Licences may also be obtained by private sale or transfer. Interested parties are encouraged to check their local newspaper and contact the Limousine Association of Queensland (LAQ) before they seek to purchase a licence from TMR as they may be able to negotiate a more cost effective price.

A party interested in obtaining a Limousine Service Licence must meet the following requirements:

- Have a vehicle that complies with schedule 4 and Section 105 of TOPTR. **Contact your local PT Office to ensure the intended vehicle is compliant prior to lodging your application form.**
- Hold current OA for Limousine Services and Driver Authorisation (DA) if you intend on driving.
- Have been issued with either a COI or Extension of Time (EOT) for the vehicle by calling the State Booking System (SBS) on **13 23 90**.
- Have the appropriate class of CTP.
- Have arranged for payment of the purchase of the service licence to be made in an acceptable form of payment (see Q8).

NOTE: A public passenger vehicle cannot provide services to the public without a current COI or EOT.

Question 6: How do I lodge my application for a Limousine Service Licence?

Applications may be lodged at your local CSC or PT office.

New licences use Limousine Service Licence Application form F2975

Transferring an existing licence use Taxi/Limousine Service Licence Notification of Transfer/Lease and Management/Renewal of Lease and Management Form F3134.

Once you have lodged your application the PT officer will assess your application and if all requirements have been met, issue an approval letter. (If requirements are not met the PT officer will advise that the application cannot be approved until requirements are met).

Finalising your Limousine Service Licence Application:

Once you have received your approval letter and met all (if any) remaining requirements outlined in the letter you are required to:

- Contact the PT office prior to attending the CSC to:
 - obtain the final sale price and

- advise them of what CSC you will be attending
- Attend the CSC to pay the fees and be issued with vehicle plates. You will be required to:
 - complete the forms outlined below,
 - have all required documents as outlined in your approval letter and
 - ensure you have obtained finance for the purchase of the limousine service licence in an approved form of payment.

Once your application is finalised, your Limousine Service Licence will be posted to you in the mail. (You should receive your service licence within 7 working days).

NOTE:

If the nominated vehicle **is not** registered, you will be required to complete: F3518 – Vehicle Registration Application.

If the nominated vehicle **is** registered you will be required to complete: F4621 – Attach/Remove/Replace Taxi/Limousine Plate Application.

Question 7: How does the Department determine the sale price?

The chief executive has authority under s107 of *TOPTR* to determine the price for which a limousine service licence is to be issued.

TMR retains a register detailing limousine service licence market value transfers and sales. The issue price for a limousine service licence is determined by calculating the price payable, taking into account the transfer and sale prices recorded on the register using either of the following methodologies:

- (a) if there has been 1 or more sales or transfers of limousine service licences within the limousine service area during the period of 6 months before the issue of the licence - the average price of the sales or transfers within that 6 month period; or
 - (b) if there have been no recent sales within the limousine service area for the period 6 months before the issue of the licence - the most recent sale or transfer of a limousine service licence within the relevant limousine service area.
- Prices are subject to change and the price payable for limousine service licence is the price as at the day the application is finalised
 - The above determination of prices excludes the following Limousine Service Areas, which have a fixed sale price:
 - Capricornia — A\$25 000
 - Far north Queensland — A\$45 000
 - North Queensland — A\$35 000.

For private sales and transfers, the price is negotiated between the vendor and purchaser.

Question 8: What is the accepted form of payment for a Limousine Service Licence from the Department?

When finalising your application, payment must be made in the form of bank draft, bank cheque, lending institution cheque or money order, payable to Department of Transport and Main Roads. **N.B personal cheques will not be accepted.**

Question 9: Are there any additional fees that will be incurred?

Additional fees upon application will include:

- Registration (including compulsory third party insurance if necessary);
- Certificate of Inspection (COI); and
- Service Licence Fees.

Ongoing fees include but are not limited to:

- Operation Accreditation (OA) and Service Licence Renewals;
- Maintenance of registration and compulsory third party insurance (CTP); and
- 6 monthly COI.

Question 10: How long can a Limousine Service Licence be issued for?

Limousine Service Licences attract an annual fee. Licences or renewals may be issued for a period of up to 5 years.

Question 11: Can a Limousine Service Licence be transferred, leased or managed?

Yes. The department must be notified of the sale/transfer, lease or management arrangements using Taxi/Limousine Service Licence Notification of Transfer/Lease and Management/Renewal of Lease and Management Form F3134.

The details of private lease or management arrangements are negotiated between the interested parties and are not regulated by TMR.

Question 12: What plate is attached to a limousine vehicle?

A unique limousine number plate will be issued to a nominated vehicle operating on a current Limousine Service Licence eg LNNNNN.

A condition of regional limousine service licences requires the licence to remain in the service area for which it was issued. To assist in compliance with this licence condition and eliminate the possibility of operators providing limousine services outside their specified service area, the following service areas were allocated specific limousine series plates:

- Capricornia L91NNN
- North Queensland L92NNN
- Far North Queensland L93NNN

Note: A regional limousine plate cannot be customised or moved to another vehicle, nor can a personalised plate be attached to a regional limousine licence.

If your vehicle is currently registered with standard number plates, the plates must be surrendered to the CSC prior to obtaining your unique limousine number plates. However, you may retain the plates to attach to another vehicle if the plates are personalised or customised.

Question 13: Can a substitute vehicle be used for a Limousine Service Licence?

Yes. In the event that the vehicle listed on the Limousine Service Licence is unavailable due to major mechanical failure or a major accident the operator can apply to their local PT office to gain authorisation to use an approved vehicle to carry on the limousine service.

Question 14: What if I no longer wish to own or operate my Limousine Service Licence?

Limousine Service Licences can be sold/transferred privately, with the price for sale being negotiated between the vendor and purchaser. Alternatively, you may surrender your licence to your Passenger Transport Officer.

Question 15: What if I want to purchase a Special Purpose Limousine Service Licence?

A Special Purpose Limousine Service Licences are available for purchase from the department and may not be leased, sold, or otherwise transferred. For further information, please refer to the information bulletin: Limousine Service Licences

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further information on providing and operating a limousine service please refer to the following information bulletins which can be downloaded from the TMR website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au or obtained from your local PT Office:

- Limousine Service Licences
- OA for Limousines
- Records to be kept by operators
- Record of Prior Booking
- Providing a Public Passenger Service
- Cosmetic Standards
- Maintenance of Public Passenger Vehicles
- PT DAS – Public Transport Driver Authorisation System
- OA Display on PT Vehicles
- Guidelines to developing an Incident Management Plan
- Incident Management Plans
- PT Audit Checklist
- DA for limousine services
- Driver Training (by operator)
- Driver Responsibilities
- Fatigue Management

TMR forms are available from your Customer Service Centre or from the TMR website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

Further enquiries may be directed to your local PT office, contact details are located on the TMR website www.tmr.qld.gov.au/About-us/Contact-us

This information has been produced as a guide to assist in the understanding of the legislation and policy. It is an interpretation of the relevant Acts and Regulations and should not be used as a reference to a point of law.