

Minibus Information- Section 19 Permits

Certain organisations can apply for a Minibus Permit, (Section 19 -Transport Act 1985) for vehicles that can carry between nine and sixteen passengers. The Permit allows organisations like volunteer groups concerned with education, religion, social welfare, recreations and other activities that are beneficial to the community to make a charge without having to comply with the full passenger carrying vehicle entitlement (PCV) operator licensing requirements and without the need for their drivers to have PCV entitlement. It should be noted however, that volunteer minibus drivers who passed their car driving test after 1st January 2007 are restricted to drive minibuses which weigh no more than 3500kgs gross vehicle weight.

Many community transport organisations and charities now operate minibuses under a section 19 permit which, allows for the service provided to be for the organisations' own members or for groups of people whom the organisation serves. Such organisations can charge or accept a form of remuneration for providing transport at a level to recover some or all of the costs of running the vehicle, and may even include an allowance for vehicle depreciation but the service must not be provided to members of the general public and the charges made must be on a non-profit basis. This non-profit requirement extends to cover any direct costs connected with a particular trip such as expenses incurred by volunteers, but not the wages of any staff involved.

Section 19 and Section 22 permits are only applicable to the United Kingdom.

For more information see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-19-and-22-permits-not-for-profit-passenger-transport/section-19-and-22-permits-not-for-profit-passenger-transport>

Published online May 2015.