



Email: [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk)

## MINIBUS INFORMATION

**ALL Scout Groups (or Districts) who operate i.e. own or hire, a Minibus require a Small Bus Permit. Small Bus permits are necessary so that voluntary groups can charge or accept a form of remuneration for providing transport for their own members, without having to comply with the full PSV operator licensing or PCV driver licensing requirements.**

You can purchase the Section 19 Minibus Permits from the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818 at a cost of £5.00 or you can download the application form at <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/forms/minibusapplication.doc>

All permits issued on or after 6th April 2009 must be valid for a specified period of no more than five years from the "valid from date". Usually the "valid from date" will be same as the date on which it was granted. VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) do not know yet how they will contact people about when the expiry date comes up, but advise that you know the date of your expiry and start to make arrangements for the next permit.

Permits issued under the previous scheme (ie. no expiry date) will cease to be valid no later than April 2014. Decisions have not yet been taken about the exact timing, but there will be a gradual transition to allow plenty of time for existing permits to be replaced with new-style permits. We will let you know more information about this when it is available to us.

For those Groups wishing to take a Minibus abroad, please refer to the factsheet FS260008.

Helpful organisation is the Community Transport Association (CTA) who has factsheets on all aspects of Minibuses. Should you require advice relating to Driver Training or Minibus Safety, further information may also be obtained on the CTA Advice Line 0845 130 6195 or [www.ctauk.org](http://www.ctauk.org)

**Please note that from 10<sup>th</sup> February 1997 ALL Minibuses irrespective of age, when carrying 3 or more children will have to be fitted with seatbelts in FORWARD FACING SEATS. The MINIMUM requirement will be a lap fitted belt fitted to each seat used by a child aged between 3 and 16 years of age.**

At the same time there are a number of publications available FREE OF CHARGE from the Department of Environment, Transport & the Regions (DETR) including:-

- Drivers Hours & Tachograph Rules for Road Passenger Vehicles in the UK and Europe (PSV375)
- Passenger Transport provided by Voluntary Groups (PSV385)
- Taking a Minibus Abroad
- For those Scout Groups that also carry Wheelchairs, the DETR publish a Code of Practice (VSE87/1)
- Seat Belts and Child restraints (T/INF/251)
- Driving a Minibus – Licensing Position of Drivers (INF28)
- Driving Licensing Requirements for Towing Trailers in Great Britain (INF30)

For further details of these publications please contact the Department of Environment, Transport & the Regions, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR.

In the meantime should you require further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Scout Information Centre.

### The Scout Association

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