

Categories of Passenger Vehicle Licenses in California

There are two governmental regulatory authorities that regulate license the business activity of charging passengers for ground transportation. The state government does this through the California Public Utilities Commission. Local city governments license taxi service and any service that is conducted exclusively within the city. The Department of Motor Vehicles DMV has the authority to license for the purpose of *using* public roads; but the do not authorize business activities. To drive on public streets, drivers must be licensed, vehicles must meet safety standards, and the DMV requires drivers to comply with the financial responsibility requirements. The third set of authorities is the property owners where business takes place. A business needs their permission to operate on their property. For instance, if you want to pick up passengers from an airport, you need to have a permit from that airport and getting a certificate or licenses discussed below does not guarantee that you will have access to a particular airport. Another example would be the owner of a hotel or shopping center can decide which taxi/limo services can operate in the parking lot.

The state information basically summarizes this document <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/NR/ronlyres/D5E763FD-5706-4F7D-9F95-1DE383C4F92C/0/BasicInformationforPassengerCarriersandApplicantsRev012811.pdf> There is more information in this document, and you may want to consult it for more information.

Taxi Service/Service regulated by a city. To pick up with in a city you must get a license to do business with in that city. From what we understand, you can pick up in one city and drop off in another city for witch you do not have a license. For instance if you are not licensed in Anaheim, you can drive someone from Huntington Beach to Anaheim, but if someone in Anaheim sees you and says “can you give me a ride back to HB, you must legally decline that job. (We are not attorneys, but there does not seem to be any clear info on the web. So this is just a guess.) Taxies have the ability to charge fairs to each customer, advertise on their car, pick up people at taxi stands, and be flagged down for a job. They can also advertise on their car, and have a lighted sign on top of their car. The other types of services below are regulated by the State of California and they do not have that ability.

Independent This generally means that the owner is not associated with any other cab companies. They own the cab and the business.

Unlicensed This may mean that the driver does not have a driver’s license but generally means they do not have a business license to operate a cab service within a city.

Passenger Stage Company (PSC) “Certificate Holder” This is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) It cost’s \$500 to register. There are

two types of PSC's defined by the **Classic** –Regular service between fixed points. This is also called “Bus Service” **Door to Door Service** This refers to taking people from their home/business to fixed points such as an Airport.

Passenger Service Company Subcarrier or Subcontractor You operate as an independent business but use the name and PSC license of a company. You must have a TCP license or permit (see below) to operate in this capacity--generally a TCP P permit.

Charter Party Carrier or Transport Charter Party Carrier (TCP) This is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and it costs \$1,500 to register plus \$100/year. Many people think of this as “like” a taxi service, but it's regulated by the state rather than a given city. You are not permitted to advertise for rides on your vehicle (i.e. the available light on top or rates painted on the door) and you cannot solicit rides on the street. Generally, the amount you charge for fairs must be based on how long it takes to get some place or the millage. All rides must be pre-arranged.

A Permit You can operate vehicles of any size and you can even do round-trips for sightseeing. (Transferable if you sell your business)

B Permit You can operate any size vehicle but there is a 125 mile range restriction unless your vehicle has more than 32 seats. (Transferable if you sell your Business)

P Permit This is for vehicles with less than 16 seats. There are no mileage restrictions as long as you stay in the State. \$1,000 + 100/yr (Non-transferable)

S Permit Sightseeing This is for taking people on round trips. You can charge individual fairs per ride. May operate vehicle of any size + no millage restriction. (Note, that Permit A also allows you to do sightseeing trips and charge individual fairs in this capacity.) \$1,000 + 100/yr (Non-transferable)

Z Permit Private Carrier You need to Register with the CPUC. It costs only \$1,000 to register plus \$100/year. This is for a service not intended for the general public such as driving agricultural workers to the field or between a business's locations.