Is the vehicle carrying passengers ‘for hire’? (see note below)

Is the vehicle constructed or adapted to seat fewer than 9 passengers and is made available with a driver?

Is the operator accepting the bookings based in London?

Yes

No → Contact VOSA who are responsible for regulation of vehicles of this size.

Contact the local authority where the operator is based.

Yes → PHV licence not required

No → PHV licence not required

Is the vehicle a licensed taxi or public service vehicle?

Yes → PHV licence not required

No

Is the vehicle solely used for weddings and funerals?

Yes → PHV licence not required

No

Is the vehicle exempt from licensing by being an ambulance? (see note below)

Yes → PHV licence not required

No

There is a requirement to be licensed as a private hire vehicle in London.

‘For hire’

TfL takes the position that if there is an element of commercial benefit to an arrangement then the vehicle is ‘for hire’ and private hire licensing requirements apply. The fact that a payment may be made for a package of goods or services, of which being driven between two points is only one aspect, should not preclude the journey from being covered by private hire legislation.

Ambulances

It is not the intention of TfL to license those vehicles that provide a genuine specialist or emergency service. PCO Notice 02/08 defines the criteria that may exempt the vehicle from being licensed as a PHV. Ambulances in the NHS, private, local authority, military and voluntary sectors that comply with these definitions will not require to be licensed.

If you are in any doubt about whether or not you need to be licensed you are advised to obtain your own legal advice.