

# Minibus FAQ's

## **Why do we need a Permit?**

Under the Section 19 permit scheme, non-profit making organisations can make a charge to passengers for providing transport to the people whom the organisation serves without the need to obtain a PSV Operators Licence and, in most cases, without having to comply with PCV driver licensing requirements. However, permit holders can only provide services to their own members or to Groups whom the organisation serves. Section 19 permits cannot be used to provide services to the general public or on journeys outside the UK. If payment in any way is made for using the minibus (ie travel to a camp) then a permit is required even if this payment is not direct to the driver but via camp/trip fees, subscriptions etc.

## **Who can apply for a Standard Minibus Permit?**

Scout Groups, Districts and Counties can apply for a permit. Explorer Scout Units can also apply.

## **Can the permits be used by other Groups/Districts or Counties/Regions?**

No. Each Scout Group/District/County/Region will need to apply for their own permit. These permits are not transferrable.

## **Can all sections of the Group have their own permit?**

No. The permit needs to be held by the Group and can be used by the Sections when necessary.

## **Can Explorer Scout Units have their own permits?**

Yes they can.

## **Can Explorer Scouts use the permit for the Group that they are attached to?**

If the Explorer Scout Unit has a partnership agreement with the Group then they can share the Permit as long as the Group and Unit are travelling on the minibus together. If the Explorers are going to take the Minibus out on their own then they must obtain a permit for the Unit.

## **Do I need a permit for each of the drivers?**

No, you need a permit for each minibus. The permit is transferrable from driver to driver and minibus to minibus.

## **If I hire 3 minibuses for a trip, how many permits do I need?**

You will need 3 permits, 1 for each vehicle. Please remember that if you are hiring or borrowing a minibus remember to remove the permit as you would have to purchase another if you leave the permit in the minibus.

## **If there is a County event and 4 different Groups are going to attend, can we all share the minibuses with only 2 permits for 2 of the Scout Groups?**

It is best that the County apply for the permits to cover the event. These permits would only relate to County run events. This way it covers different Scout Groups for across the County. So this allows all Scout Groups that are at the event to travel under the Counties Minibus

Permit. Under section 'B' of the permit 'Persons whom the body exists to benefit, and persons assisting them' will cover them for the event.

**Do minibuses, borrowed by Scout Groups or District Explorer Scout Units, from local schools, colleges or community groups, require a minibus permit from The Scout Association?**

Yes, you will need to purchase a permit for any minibus that you use regardless of whether it is your own, borrowed or hired.

**Can I get a replacement Permit as I have lost mine?**

Yes, you can but you will need to pay for a new one. You must let the Information Centre know if you have lost your permit. All permits are individually numbered and once lost the permit needs to be cancelled. You will then need to re apply for a new permit.

**How much does a permit cost?**

£5.00 for each permit.

**How long does the permit last?**

The permits will last for 5 years from the start date.

**Do I need to display the permit?**

Yes, in whichever vehicle you are driving at the time. Please note that if you do not display the minibus permit in the windscreen, as this is an Operator's License this may lead to prosecution if not displayed whilst using the minibus.

**What licence do I need to drive a minibus?**

The qualification that you need to drive a minibus is a full driving licence with a D1 entitlement or without D1, have held their licence for over 2 years but cannot tow a trailer. More information about this can be found at [gov.uk/driving-a-minibus](http://gov.uk/driving-a-minibus) You should check with your County/District to see if there is a requirement that Members need to undertake MiDAS training.

MiDAS is the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme, organised by the Community Transport Association U.K. (CTA) which promotes a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. It is a membership based scheme that has been designed to enhance minibus driving standards and promote the safer operation of minibuses.

Some Districts and Counties ask their Leaders to do the course before driving a minibus.

More info can be found at [ctauk.org](http://ctauk.org)