

Minibus Administrator

01752 307730
roadsafety@plymouth.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

Plymouth City Council Minibus Assessment Courses

There have been a number of enquiries recently with regard to driving minibuses with a category B driving licence.

Details of who is entitled to drive can be found on the DirectGov website at [Driving a passenger carrying vehicle \(PCV\) on a car licence](#)

Administrators and drivers are reminded that those drivers who do not have D1 entitlement must conform to the guidance on the DirectGov website. Attention is also drawn to the Minibus *Gross Vehicle Weight*. Holders of category B licences are only able to drive minibuses where the gross vehicle weight is less than 3.5 tonnes. It is recommended that administrators check the gross vehicle weight of their minibuses and that only those drivers with the correct entitlement are currently driving them.

European legislation has created the need for new minibuses to increase on board safety measures; this has resulted in the gross vehicle weight of some vehicles being increased to in excess of 3.5 tonnes.

As from October 2006 all minibuses being used for the Plymouth City Council Minibus Driver Assessment Courses will be in excess of 3.5 tonnes and therefore category B holders will be unable to attend these courses.

Where establishments currently operate minibuses under 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight it may be possible to run minibus assessment courses using an establishments own vehicles for category B licence holders. Administrators will need to contact the Road Safety Team on 01752 307730 to discuss the feasibility of setting up a course. It may be advantageous to include other establishments in order to reduce costs.

If you are still in any doubt concerning the entitlement to drive by any of your staff, please contact the Road Safety Office and we will be pleased to assist with your enquiry.

Yours faithfully

Tom Jenkins
Road Safety Officer

The information in this letter is also available in Braille and large print (this size) upon request. To obtain a copy please telephone 01752 307730.