The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) requires all for-hire passenger carriers, regardless of the size of the vehicle or passenger capacity, to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN/PUCO number). Although ambulances and taxis are exempt, the following are required to obtain a CPCN/PUCO Number (see below):

- Charter bus
- Nursing home
- Ambulette

Ambulette agencies should contact the PUCO for information on registering their service and vehicles or other related questions at:

**PUCO Transportation Department**
(800) 686-8277
MCRегистration@puco.ohio.gov
Contact the PUCO

PUCO Transportation Department
(800) 686-8277
MCRregistration@puco.ohio.gov

PUCO Call Center
(800)-686-PUCO (7826)
7-1-1 (TDD/TTY)
www.PUCO.ohio.gov

Contact Other Transportation Agencies

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
(800) 832-5660
www.fmcsa.dot.gov

Ohio State Highway Patrol
(614) 466-2600
www.statepatrol.ohio.gov

Passenger Carrier Requirements

Information about safety regulations and economic rules for passenger carriers by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider.
Who must comply with safety regulations?

- Directly compensated for-hire carriers operating vehicles that transport more than 8 passengers including the driver
- Indirectly compensated for-hire carriers transporting 9 to 15 passengers, including the driver (limited requirements)
- Directly or indirectly compensated for-hire carriers operating vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more regardless of passenger capacity
- Private passenger carriers operating vehicles that require the driver to possess a CDL

What are the economic requirements and who must comply with them?

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio requires all for-hire passenger carriers, regardless of the size of the vehicle or passenger capacity, to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN/PUCO number). This does not include ambulances or taxis. Some examples are:
- Charter bus
- Nursing home
- Ambulance

Which passenger carriers are considered directly compensated?

The following is a list of passenger carriers that are paid directly for the purpose of the transportation:
- Charter/tour bus
- Party bus
- Limousine
- Airport shuttle
- Transportation reimbursed with government funds such as Medicaid/Medicare

Which passenger carriers are considered indirectly compensated?

The following is a list of passenger carriers that build the cost of the transportation into the overall fee charged:
- Nursing home
- Canoe livery
- Hotel shuttle
- Day care center
- Community centers

What are the limited requirements for indirectly compensated passenger carriers?

- Obtain a PUO CPCN
- Display their company name and PUO number on their vehicles
- Drivers cannot test while driving
- Drivers cannot use a hand-held mobile device while driving

What are some examples of private passenger carriers?

- Businesses transporting their employees
- Churches
- Scouting organizations

Ohio State Highway Patrol bus inspection program

Passenger carriers that operate the following vehicles are required to schedule an appointment and have their vehicle(s) inspected in order to obtain a vehicle registration:
- Was originally designed by the manufacturer to transport more than fifteen passengers, including the driver
- Either the gross vehicle weight rating or the gross vehicle weight exceeds 10,001 pounds

If you operate your vehicles outside of the state of Ohio, see the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, Title 49, Part 390.3 and 390.5 to determine applicability of your interstate operation.