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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driver and Vehicle Services Update

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This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services
website at www.dmv.pa.gov

Tom Wolf, Governor

Leslie S. Richards, Secretary

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SPECIAL EDITION

Charter Bus Registration

Effective January 1, 2015, The International Registration Plan (IRP) implemented the Full Reciprocity Plan (FRP) for all IRP jurisdictions. The FRP has simplified the apportioned registration process by granting every apportioned registered vehicle access to all 59 U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions.

On September 18th, 2014, IRP jurisdictions voted in favor of amending the definition of “Apportionable Vehicle” in the plan by removing the exemption for charter buses. The exempt status from the IRP for charter buses was removed since FRP provides charter buses the flexibility required by charter bus operations. **Effective on January 1, 2016**, all charter buses operating interstate will be required to either obtain apportioned registration (apportioned plates) or keep the bus plate and purchase trip permits for interstate travel.

Those who maintain charter bus operations may register for apportioned registration anytime between now and January 1, 2016. The apportioned registration cycle for apportioned registered vehicles runs from June 1 through May 31. Pennsylvania does not maintain staggered registration for apportioned registered vehicles at this time. As a result, some questions may arise on when to transition bus plates to apportioned registration plates. Please reference the bullets below:

- **If the registrant has an existing apportioned fleet**, they may elect to add their current non-apportioned vehicles to the fleet. Vehicles added to the existing apportioned fleet will maintain the current annual June through May apportioned registration cycle.
- **If the registrant elects to convert their current bus plates** to apportioned registration prior to the current bus expiration date, credit shall be applied to the new apportioned registration. Please note that registrants are not required to convert all of their vehicles to apportioned registration; some can maintain the bus plate depending on how they use them (i.e. limited to intrastate travel or trip permits are purchased).
- **If the registrant is in the process of converting to apportioned registration**, they may receive a renewal invitation for their current bus registration if it is within 90-days of renewal. This is an automatic renewal mailing, which may have been issued before they started the conversion to apportioned registration. If this occurs, the registrant should disregard their renewal notice.

School Buses and other Organizations

The changes in the IRP charter bus requirements are not intended to affect school bus or other non-profit organization vehicles with bus plates. However, if the bus is used in charter operations any time during the registration period, the bus would be subject to either IRP or trip permit requirements.

For additional information refer to FAQ's on PennDOT's website under Charter Bus Questions and Answers.

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