



Motor Carrier Attachment

NYSDOT February 2011 Stretch-Modified Vehicle Policy

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(3 pages)

Department of Transportation

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Office of Modal Safety & Security
Bus & Passenger Carrier Safety

Stretched/Modified Vehicle Policy

Due to recent changes in New York State regulations concerning certain **stretched or modified** vehicles, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) licensed inspection stations will now direct the owners of these vehicles to contact the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for jurisdiction and vehicle safety inspection requirements. If your vehicle has been **stretched or modified** you must [contact](#) NYSDOT to determine if "[Operating Authority](#)" is needed. If operating authority is not needed then a NYSDOT exemption letter will be provided for you to present to a licensed DMV inspection station for the vehicle's safety inspection, and to the DMV for registration purposes; otherwise NYSDOT will perform the safety inspection as part of the operating authority application process.

Please find the [NYSDOT Supervising Motor Vehicle Inspector \(SMVI\)](#) in your area to assist you in determining your vehicles classification or visit the [Passenger Authority page](#) for an operating authority application.

Questions and Answers

Question 1: Why is there a new stretched/modified vehicle policy?

Answer : The NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has changed its vehicle inspection regulations pertaining to stretch vehicles. Owners of these of vehicles, that have had a DMV annual vehicle inspection in the past, will now be directed to contact the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The purpose of this regulation change is to insure that stretch vehicles that fall under NYSDOT's definition of a "bus" undergo a NYSDOT safety inspection if that vehicle falls under the Department's jurisdiction. Pursuant to Title 17 NYCRR Section 720.1(b), a bus is a motor vehicle designed to carry more than 10 persons (including the driver).

Question 2: If a vehicle's *designed seating capacity*, which is the maximum number of passengers based on the interior compartment space, is more than 10 (including the driver) will the carrier need to apply for NYSDOT operating authority and have to undergo inspection?

Answer: Yes, if the vehicle is used in "for hire" intrastate transportation and does not fall under an exemption pursuant to section 151 of the NYS Transportation Law.

Question 3: How do you determine if the vehicle has a *designed seating capacity* of more than 10 (including the driver)?

Answer: Contact the [Supervising Motor Vehicle Inspector \(SMVI\)](#) in your area and he will be able to assist you with determining the designed seating capacity.

Question 4: If it is determined that my vehicle must be inspected by NYSDOT what is the next step.

Answer: The operator must apply to NYSDOT for operating authority. To apply for authority the operator should contact NYSDOT at (518) 457-6512 or go to the [Passenger Authority](#) webpage for an operating authority application.

Question 5: What happens if it is determined that the vehicle does not fall within NYSDOT's jurisdiction?

Answer: If operating authority is not needed an [SMVI](#) will provide a NYSDOT exemption letter for you to present to a licensed DMV inspection station for the vehicle's safety inspection, and to the DMV for registration purposes.

Department of Transportation

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