

Registration Starts on 2 November for Trial Scheme to Travel with Oversized Musical Instruments in MTR

Passengers with some larger musical instruments that currently exceed the MTR size restrictions¹ for personal items will soon be able to travel on the railway with their instruments after obtaining a special "Carriage of Oversized Musical Instrument Permit" ("Permit") in a four-month trial scheme.

From 2 November 2015, the MTR Corporation will start accepting registrations for the Permit for oversized musical instruments beyond the current limits but with the longest side not exceeding 145cm and total dimensions (length + width + height) below 235cm (including the case or bag). The Permit will allow the registered person to bring one oversized instrument into stations and trains at any one time during MTR service hours except in the morning peak period between 8:15 am and 9:15 am from Mondays to Fridays².

"This trial registration scheme was designed after listening to the views of the public and we thank them for working with us, especially our friends in the music community. The existing size rule does not affect most musical instruments, and with this special arrangement in place, we believe we will be able to cover the vast majority of the musical instruments that our passengers have a genuine need to carry," said Dr Jacob Kam, Operations Director of MTR Corporation.

"However, we hope the community understands our important responsibility to ensure that the safety and operational requirements of the railway are maintained. Our careful risk assessment has determined it would not be prudent to accommodate instruments larger than 235cm in total or with one side longer than 145cm. At the same time, it is crucial that passengers carrying oversized musical instruments under the special Permit follow the specific safety rules and guidelines prepared for them," Dr Kam added.

Dr Kam also pointed out that registration is not required for musical instruments that meet the prevailing size restrictions, i.e. 170cm in total with no one side exceeding 130cm.

Passengers wishing to travel with their oversized musical instruments may apply for a Permit free of charge by filling in and submitting an online form available at:

http://www.mtr.com.hk/musical_instrument_permit_en

Forms can also be collected from and returned to the Customer Service Centre at any MTR station³ or submitted by mail. Permits are expected to be issued in seven working days after the date of form submission.

¹ Total dimensions measuring 170cm (length + width + height) with not any one side exceeding 130cm.

² Public holidays not included.

³ Except Airport Express stations, Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau, Racecourse, Disneyland Resort and Sunny Bay stations.

The MTR Corporation will conduct a review towards the end of the trial period to evaluate effectiveness and consider whether any changes or adjustments are required. The Corporation will also explore options for carriage of other oversized sporting and recreational equipment into the MTR.

- End -

About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates nine commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which more than 5.4 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 4.9 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

Photo caption:

Head of Operating Mr Francis Li announces the details of the four-month Trial Registration Scheme for Carriage of Oversized Musical Instruments. Passengers who obtain a Permit will be allowed to bring an oversized musical instrument with total dimensions of up to 235cm and any one side up to 145cm into the MTR network.



Trial Registration Scheme for “Carriage of Oversized Musical Instruments Permit”

Registration

- For musical instruments beyond the current limits but with the longest side not exceeding 145cm and total dimensions (length + width + height) below 235cm (including the case or bag). (Passengers with musical instruments measuring within 170cm in total (length+width+height) with no one side exceeding 130 cm do NOT require a Permit to enter the railway.)

Application

- Applications will be accepted from 2 November 2015:
 1. Online at: http://www.mtr.com.hk/musical_instrument_permit_en
 2. In person by obtaining and returning application forms to the Customer Service Centre of any MTR station (except Airport Express stations, Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau, Racecourse, Disneyland Resort and Sunny Bay).
 3. By mailing completed forms to MTR Corporation, MTR Headquarters Building, Telford Plaza, Kowloon Bay and marking “Concessionary Travel Office” on the envelope.
- Parents or legal guardians will be required to counter-sign registration forms for applicants under the age of 18.

Collection

- Collection Points:
 1. Designated Counters at 6 MTR stations
 - Mei Foo Station
 - Olympic Station
 - Kowloon Tong Station
 - Tai Wo Station
 - Wan Chai Station
 - Yau Tong Station
 2. Concessionary Travel Offices at 3 MTR stations
 - Admiralty Station
 - Siu Hong Station
 - Tai Wai Station
- Collection hours 7:00am to 11:00pm daily
- Presentation of valid identity document is required at time of collection of Permit

Validity

- Permits valid for three years (subject to the outcome of the Corporation’s review on the trial registration scheme).

Safety Rules and Usage Guidelines for Holders of “Carriage of Oversized Musical Instrument Permit”

Applicants submitting registration forms, whether online, at MTR Customer Service Centres or by mail, will be requested to acknowledge acceptance of the following safety rules designed to ensure a safe and comfortable travelling environment for all passengers.

Applicants under the age of 18 are required to have their parents or legal guardians counter-sign registration forms to ensure they understand and agree to follow the safety requirements.

1. Always have your Permit with you and when requested by MTR staff, show your Permit and/or musical instrument.
2. Carry only one oversized musical instrument at any one time.
3. Do not bring oversized instruments into MTR for travel between 8:15 am and 9:15 am (calculated from time of entry through ticket gates) on Mondays through Fridays, except public holidays.
4. Please use the lift.
5. Mind the top of doorways when boarding and alighting trains; take the musical instrument off your shoulders if needed.
6. To avoid hitting overhanging objects and potential electrical hazard when near high voltage overhead equipment, do not lift your musical instrument up in the air.
7. Do not block train doorways, passages inside trains, lift entrances/exits, staircases, entry/exit gates or evacuation paths. Use train cars that have more space, usually first and last cars.
8. In the event of emergency evacuation along the track, leave your musical instrument behind. Place it in a location that does not block any passage, for example on top of seats. Follow instructions and directions from MTR staff or emergency services personnel.