



Julie Menin  
Commissioner

January 26, 2015

████████████████████  
Staff Attorney  
████████████████████

BY EMAIL  
████████████████████  
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42 Broadway  
9th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

RE: Question Regarding Sightseeing Bus License

████████████████████  
[nyc.gov/consumers](http://nyc.gov/consumers)

Dear Mr. ██████████

This letter is in response to your inquiry in which you ask whether ██████████ ██████████ is required to obtain sightseeing bus permits for sightseeing tours that originate from points outside of New York City (“NYC”), pick up passengers outside of NYC, and bring those passengers to view sites within NYC. Since the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs (“Department” or “DCA”) does not issue permits for sightseeing bus tours, but rather licenses sightseeing bus companies, we interpret your inquiry as asking whether ██████████ is required to obtain a DCA sightseeing bus license. Based on the information you provided, the answer is no.

Sightseeing bus licensing laws can be found in Section 20-371 *et seq.* of the NYC Administrative Code (“Code”). Code Section 20-372(4) defines a “sightseeing bus” as “a motor vehicle designed to comfortably seat and carry eight or more passengers operating for hire from a fixed point in the city of New York to a place or places of interest or amusements.” The definition also includes a vehicle designed to seat and carry eight or more passengers which is hired by contract “for its exclusive use for a specific or special trip or excursion point from a starting point within the city of New York.”

Since the tours you describe would not operate from fixed, starting points in New York City, Aeolus would not be required to obtain a sightseeing bus license.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

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Staff Attorney