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IMPLEMENTATION OF REVIEW REPORT

The NTA is proceeding with the implementation of the various recommendations of the Taxi Regulation Review report which are within its remit. Because of the inter-linked nature of some of the recommendations, it is proposed that many of the significant new rules will become operational on the same date, which is intended to be 1st January 2013. Some of the significant rules that are planned to become active on that date are:

Age Limits ACTION 10

The vehicle age limit at licence issue or licence renewal for taxi, hackneys and wheelchair accessible taxis / hackneys will be nine years for all vehicles entering the fleet from the start of next year and for vehicles (other than wheelchair accessible vehicles) associated with licences issued since 1st January 2009.

For existing vehicles associated with a licence held prior to 1st January 2009 and for existing wheelchair accessible taxis/hackneys, those vehicles will be allowed to operate on their current licence up to and including 14 years of age, subject to passing a roadworthiness (NCT) test and an NTA Licence Renewal Assessment at six monthly intervals where the vehicle is older than nine years.

Transferability ACTION 14

Taxi licences will no longer be allowed to be transferred or sold to another individual. Following a referral by the Industry Sub-committee, the SPSV Advisory Committee has recommended to the Authority that an exemption be allowed for the transfer of an active licence to a next-of-kin following the death of the licence holder and this is being considered by the Authority.

Driver to Vehicle Linkage ACTION 40

Drivers will be required to ensure the Authority's database is continually updated with the details of the vehicle that they are operating. Simple on-line, smart phone app and text based updating solutions will be available to the SPSV industry to allow convenient updating of driver changes on a particular vehicle.

Prohibition of Taxi Plate Only Rental ACTION 39

From the intended implementation date of 1st January 2013, only 'full package' taxi rentals will be allowed and taxi plate only rentals will be prohibited. The person providing the rental must own both the vehicle and the vehicle licence. That person will also be responsible for the condition and roadworthiness of the vehicle at the time of rental and will also be required to provide insurance on the vehicle for the rental period.

Inactive Licence Period ACTION 16

The period during which an inactive vehicle licence can be reactivated will be reduced from the current five years to one year. Any licences which are inactive prior to 1st January 2013, must be reactivated before the end of the original 5 year period or by 31st December 2013, whichever is the earlier date.

Licence and Vehicle Owner ACTION 15

The owner of the vehicle licence and the registered owner of the vehicle associated with the licence must be the same person. Certain limited exemptions are being considered to deal with circumstances such as vehicles on long term leases.

Vehicle Prohibitions ACTION 11

From 1st January 2013, pick-up vehicles and crew cabs will be prohibited from use as taxis, hackneys or limousines. Tinted windows will be prohibited for new vehicles entering the taxi or hackney fleet. Safety critical vehicle alterations in modified vehicles (including conversions to wheelchair accessible vehicles) will be subject to regular Engineer's inspections.



It is important to keep yourself updated

Up-to-date information and answers to frequently asked questions are available on the Authority's website www.nationaltransport.ie/taxi-and-bus-licensing/taxi/taxi-review-implementation

IMPLEMENTATION OF REVIEW REPORT

Continued

VEHICLE BRANDING

The Taxi Regulation Review report provides for the 'branding' of taxis (and wheelchair accessible taxis) by means of a semi-permanent decal applied to the vehicle body, potentially to the doors on either side (Action 31). Designs and specification for such branding are currently being prepared by the Authority. It is intended that a short-list of potential designs will be brought to the SPSV Advisory Committee over the next few weeks. Further information will be made available on the 'Taxi Review Implementation' section of our website in a few weeks time.

CONSOLIDATING REGULATIONS

The Authority is working on gathering together all of the SPSV regulations into one comprehensive set of regulations. Where it is possible to streamline and simplify regulations as part of this process, this will also be done. A set of consolidated and updated regulations will be published later this year.

COMPLETED ACTIONS

Several of the 46 actions of the Taxi Regulation Review report have been completed. These include:

ACTION 1

Driver licence data is now shared with the Department of Social Protection in line with data protection guidelines.

ACTION 2

Driver licence data is now shared with the Revenue Commissioners in line with data protection guidelines.

ACTION 4

Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) is now established as a key data reference in line with data protection guidelines.

ACTION 8

Vehicle licence data is now shared with the Department of Social Protection in line with data protection guidelines.

ACTION 9

Vehicle licence data is now shared with the Revenue Commissioners in line with data protection guidelines.

ACTION 12

The tamper proof discs were updated to include QR codes and these are now being issued on renewal.

ACTION 17

Subject to availability, the NTA Vehicle Licensing Centres now offer a 'same day' option for both taximeter and SPSV suitability tests. This will help integrate and streamline vehicle and taximeter inspection processes.

ACTION 24

We have strengthened collaboration between An Garda Síochána and the Authority by creating a liaison group to help progress related actions.

ACTION 34

The Minister re-established the SPSV Advisory Committee earlier this year, facilitating referrals to that Committee in relation to the introduction, or proposed introduction of industry regulations.

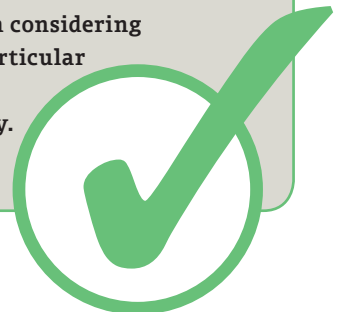
ACTION 35

A sub-committee of the SPSV Advisory Committee has now been put in place, which can act as a forum for the taxi sector when considering issues of particular concern to the industry.



KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED WITH REGULAR UPDATES

The Authority would like to provide industry members with regular updates. So to keep yourself updated, please register your email and phone number by calling our industry line on 0761 064 000. We will be sending SMS texts and emails to everyone that had provided us with their information. Please check our website for the latest information www.nationaltransport.ie/taxis-and-bus-licensing/taxi/taxi-review-implementation



FARE REVIEW

A review of the National Maximum Taxi Fare will be undertaken by the Authority over the next few months. The Authority has appointed Ernst & Young in conjunction with other partners to undertake this review. Formal notification of the public consultation period will be announced in the newspapers and on our website. **It is important that you take the time to let us know your views.** We will be taking online and written submissions at the time of public consultation. Every submission received will be considered as part of the review. We would like to hear from you on this very important issue.

National Maximum Taxi Fare Effective from 1 November 2008			
TAXI	Standard rate	Premium rate	Extras <small>Where relevant</small>
	8.00h–20.00h	20.00h–8.00h & Sundays & public holidays*	Booking fee €2.00.
	INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs	INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs	Extra adults: second and additional passengers €1.00 each.
	€4.10 Fixed	€4.45 Fixed	Extra children under 12: 1 free 2 or 3 €1.00 4 or 5 €2.00 6 or 7 €3.00.
	TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €18.70	TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €23.45	Road toll charges as incurred.
	€1.03 per km or €0.36 per min	€1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	Soiling charge €140.00.
TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €38.90	TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €47.05		
€1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	€1.57 per km or €0.55 per min		
TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €38.90	TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €47.05		
€1.77 per km or €0.63 per min	€1.77 per km or €0.63 per min		
<small>Distance rate applies unless speed drops below 21 km/h when time rate applies.</small>	<small>*A special premium rate applies between Christmas Eve 20:00h to St. Stephen's Day 08:00h and New Year's Eve 20:00h to New Year's Day 08:00h. During these periods Tariff C is applied immediately after the premium rate initial charge.</small>		

To compliment or complain call

0761 064 000

Monday–Friday 9am–6pm
(except bank holidays)

or visit

www.TransportforIreland.ie

Údarás
Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority

Wheelchair Accessible Grant Scheme

The Wheelchair Accessible SPSV Grant Scheme for 2012 commenced on the 1st February 2012. The Authority received 58 applications for grant assistance.

We have provided a detailed breakdown of the applicants below for your information. The purpose of the grant scheme was to assist existing and new licence holders to purchase or upgrade their wheelchair accessible vehicle to improve services to people with disabilities throughout Ireland. All documentation had to be received and the grant requirements met, including the Grant Vehicle Inspection, by Friday 8th June 2012. **This grant scheme is now closed.**

The final numbers for the 2012 Grant Scheme are as follows:

- ▶ Total number of applicants for 2012: 58
- ▶ Number of new vehicle applicants: 53
- ▶ Number of converted vehicle applicants: 5
- ▶ Number of approved applications: 15 (all for new vehicles; 8 with new licences & 7 with existing licences)
- ▶ Number of rejected applications: 17
- ▶ Number of withdrawn applications: 26



For the Grant Scheme, €500,000 was made available for funding. A total of €224,187.50 was drawn down from this fund for the 15 applicants that fulfilled all requirements by the deadline.

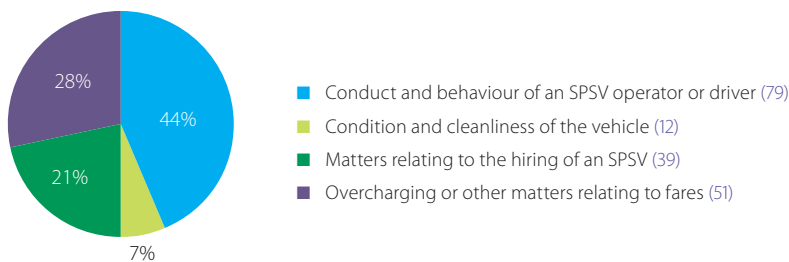
Facts and figures Tables are correct as of 30th June 2012

Vehicle licences county and category as of 30th June 2012

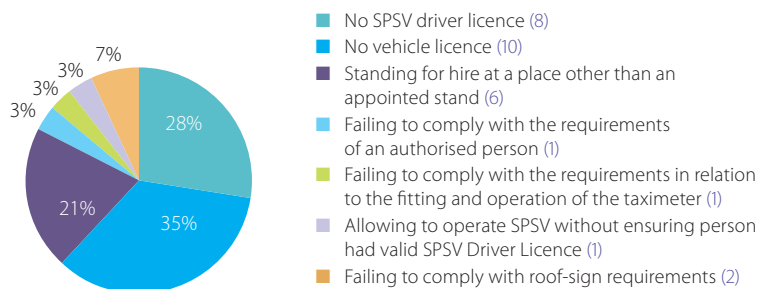
County	Hackney	Limo	Taxi	WAT*	WAH**	Total
Carlow	35	1	101	19	0	156
Cavan	82	1	99	8	0	190
Clare	142	42	193	12	1	390
Cork	490	143	1,403	90	2	2,128
Donegal	229	28	188	20	1	466
Dublin	90	347	10,541	487	0	11,465
Galway	226	55	675	66	1	1,023
Kerry	173	79	230	19	0	501
Kildare	164	77	641	82	0	964
Kilkenny	42	10	153	23	0	228
Laois	59	12	133	33	0	237
Leitrim	35	8	36	11	0	90
Limerick	121	68	526	27	1	743
Longford	27	3	65	9	0	104
Louth	72	32	482	36	0	622
Mayo	162	28	167	16	1	374
Meath	101	62	984	71	0	1,218
Monaghan	75	7	7	9	0	98
Offaly	102	19	72	11	1	205
Roscommon	91	14	40	10	0	155
Sligo	28	14	135	13	1	191
Tipperary	219	34	30	3	1	287
Waterford	50	47	216	23	1	337
Westmeath	35	13	241	30	0	319
Wexford	109	42	135	22	0	308
Wicklow	87	41	265	15	0	408
TOTAL	3,046	1,227	17,758	1,165	11	23,207

*Wheelchair Accessible Taxi. **Wheelchair Accessible Hackney.

Breakdown of complaints June 2012 | Total of 181 complaints



Breakdown of prosecutions June 2012 | Total of 29 offences



Active driver licences **36,602**

Fixed-charge penalties 2012

Offence	Number
Standing for hire at a place other than an appointed stand	38
Plying/Standing for hire in a hackney/ limousine	6
Failure to comply with regulations in relation to the fitting/operation of a taximeter	11
Failing to operate a taximeter	3
Failing to provide a receipt	1
Not having adequate knowledge of local area	3
Failure to display tamper-proof disc	2
Failure to have taximeter properly calibrated	1
Refusal to carry a passenger for a journey of not more than 30 kilometres	1
Failure to display driver identification	1
Failure to display in-vehicle information	2
Failure to comply with roof sign requirements	10
Total	79

Breakdown of prosecutions by area June 2012

County	Number
Dublin	11
Kilkenny	5
Offaly	2
Wicklow	1
Cork	1
Westmeath	1
Leitrim	1
Cavan	1
Mayo	1
Limerick	2
Monaghan	1
Total	27

Skills Development Test

Total of 10,035 certified drivers

SPSV Entry Test (for new driver licence applicants and dispatch operators)	
Total number of tests sat to date	11,165*
Number of passes	2,515
Pass rate	23%
SPSV Industry Knowledge Test (for existing drivers)	
Total number of tests sat to date	10,489
Number of passes	7,520
Pass rate	72%

*Includes re-sits.