

► Taxi Branding Update	2
► Fixed Charge Offences	3
► Launch of Taxi Industry Portal	4
► Age Limits	5
► Fare Review	6

UPCOMING CHANGES AT A GLANCE



VEHICLE LICENSING

- New rental controls
- Vehicle owner to be licence owner
- Revised late renewal fees
- New 60 day licence renewal period

VEHICLE INSPECTION

- Branding required for licence inspection

DRIVER AND RENTAL NOTIFICATIONS

- Taxi industry website portal available
- Taxi industry smart phone app available

DRIVER LICENSING

- Changes to Fixed Charge Penalties

New age limits

New licence validity periods

5 to 1 year licence reactivation period

No tinted windows

No crew-cabs

Driver to vehicle notification mandatory

Rental notifications required

See page 2

See page 4

See page 5



TAXI BRANDING UPDATE

From 1st January all taxis and wheelchair accessible taxis will be required to have the specified door signage fitted at any licensing transaction inspection.

- A taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi that is presented for inspection without the appropriate door signage will fail after 1st January 2013.
- It will be an offence to operate a taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi without the correct signage in place after its next licensing transaction from 1st January 2013.

The door signage must come from an Authorised Supplier: if the decals cannot be traced to such a supplier the inspection will be failed.

To locate an Authorised Supplier please visit www.nationaltransport.ie

Changes to vehicle licensing processes and fees

From 1st January, the following changes are being introduced:

- Your reminder notice will issue 60 days in advance instead of 90 days.
- Six month licence fee (vehicles over 10 years) will be €62.50.
- A graduated structure of expired licence renewal fees will be introduced from the 1st January 2013. The upfront payment of €375 will continue to be applied at booking, in addition to other applicable licensing fees; however if the licence is renewed within a month of expiry, a partial refund of this fee will be made to the licence holder, as per the table below.

Inspection passed	Before licence expiry date	1–10 days after licence expiry date	11–30 days after licence expiry date	More than 30 days after expiry date
Upfront payment*	None	€375	€375	€375
Refund due	None	€275	€175	None

*Late fees only, normal licensing fees remain applicable.



FIXED CHARGE OFFENCES

A revised set of fixed charge penalties come into force on 1st January 2013.

A graduated set of penalties ranging from €40 to €250 will apply.

Payments under these fixed charge offence notices must be made within 28 days to avoid prosecution.

Ref	Offence – effective as of 1st January 2013	Penalty
1	Failure to display required in-vehicle information.	€40
2	Standing at appointed stand while vehicle not available for hire.	€40
3	Standing for hire in taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi otherwise than at an appointed stand.	€40
4	Refusal to carry Assistance Dog or Guide Dog in small public service vehicle.	€40
5	Failure to provide receipt in respect of taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi.	€40
6	Failure to provide receipt in respect of hackney or limousine.	€40
7	Standing or plying for hire in a county without satisfactory local knowledge.	€40
8	Failure to comply with taxi roof sign requirements.	€40
9	Displaying on a hackney or limousine a sign or advertisement other than one prescribed by the National Transport Authority.	€40
10	Failure to notify details of small public service vehicle being operated.	€40
11	Operating taximeter while taxi standing for hire or plying for hire.	€60
12	Failure to operate taximeter while taxi on hire.	€60
13	Failure to comply with the requirements in relation to the fitting and operation of a taximeter.	€60
14	Applying a booking fee in respect of a taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi where engaged while plying for hire or standing for hire or without having been booked in advance by the consumer.	€60
15	Plying for hire or standing for hire in a hackney or limousine.	€60
16	Failure to display required driver identification.	€60
17	Failure to safely carry prescribed safety articles.	€60
18	Failure to carry document in a hackney being driven in, into or out of a taximeter area.	€60
19	Failure to have a boarding aid in, or as part of a wheelchair accessible taxi or wheelchair accessible hackney.	€60
20	Failure to have a wheelchair restraint system and wheelchair occupant restraint system in a wheelchair accessible taxi or wheelchair accessible hackney.	€60
21	Removal or attempted removal of tamper-proof disc from a small public service vehicle.	€80
22	Failure to display tamper-proof disc.	€80
23	Unreasonable refusal to carry passenger where journey not more than 30 kilometres.	€80
24	Failure to have taximeter calibrated in line with current maximum fare order.	€250
25	Displaying forged driver identification on small public service vehicle.	€250
26	Failure to have prescribed signage affixed to the front doors of taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi.	€250

Are you a rental operator?

If you are renting your vehicle and vehicle licence to another SPSV operator, then from 1st January 2013:

- 1 You must own and supply a full rental package – i.e. licence and vehicle
- 2 You must provide appropriate insurance for the rental period
- 3 From 31st January you must notify us of any rental agreements in place (see page 4)
See our website for further information, or call our information line on **0761 064 000**



LAUNCH OF TAXI INDUSTRY PORTAL

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Taxi Industry Portal. At the top right, there are links for 'English', 'Gaeilge', and 'Logout'. The main header features the logo for 'Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair National Transport Authority' and a 'Taxi Industry Portal' button with a taxi icon. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with options: Profile, Change password, Taxi Rental Notification, Vehicle Rental Agreement, Existing Agreements, Historical Agreements, Driver to Vehicle Notification, New Link, Existing Link, Historical Link, and FAQ. The central area is a login form titled 'WELCOME TO THE TAXI INDUSTRY PORTAL' with fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'LOG IN' button. To the right, a smartphone displays the mobile app interface, which includes the 'Taxi Industry Portal' logo and buttons for 'Taxi Rental Notification' and 'Driver to Vehicle Link'.

On 7th January, the National Transport Authority will launch the Taxi Industry Portal.

This on-line service will allow notifications by drivers of the vehicle they are operating, as well as providing for rental notifications by rental operators.

The portal is simple to use, allowing you to update your details easily.

A smartphone app will be downloadable from the portal website, enabling updating of the relevant information from your smartphone.

On 31st January 2013, the requirement for drivers to notify details of the vehicle that they are operating will become mandatory. The launch of the new Taxi Industry Portal and smartphone app on 7th January

will allow operators to familiarise themselves with the process. Most importantly it will allow drivers who operate their own vehicle to use the January familiarisation period to pre-register the vehicle that they will be operating.

If you don't have a smartphone or web access, you can call the SPSV industry information line and an agent will complete the process on your behalf.

For illustrative purposes only.

What happens next?

When the portal goes live, all active SPSV licence holders will receive an introductory pack in the post. This will contain a step-by-step guide to registering and using the portal. Our information line will also be available to assist with registration and portal use. **Please note that the portal is not yet live. Please do not contact us prior to receiving your introductory pack.**



Five to one year licence reactivation period

The period during which an inactive vehicle licence can be reactivated will be reduced from the current five years to one year. Any licence which was inactive prior to 31st January 2013, must be reactivated before the end of the original five year period or by 31st January 2014, whichever is the earlier date.

New licence validity period

Under all categories, vehicles which have passed their 10th birthday* can only be licensed for a maximum period of six months. The last licence expiry date will be set for the 10th or 15th birthday* of the vehicle where a maximum limit applies.

* Birthday is calculated from the date of first registration of the vehicle.

Changes at Initial Suitability Inspection

Tinted Windows

From 31st January 2013 replacement vehicles entering the fleet at Change of Vehicle will not pass inspections with darkly tinted windows. 'Dark' means less than 65% visible light transmission, or alternatively, more than 35% tint.

Crew Cabs

From 31st January 2013 replacement vehicles entering the fleet at Change of Vehicle will not pass inspections if they are 'crew cabs' or 'pick ups'.

Driver-To-Vehicle link

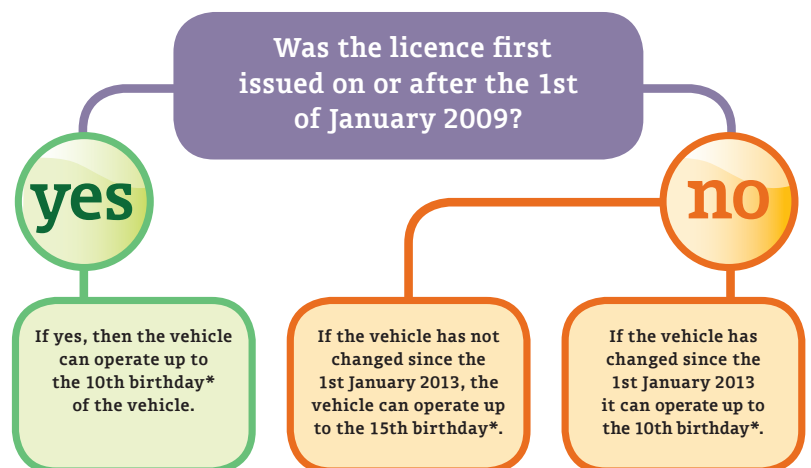
From 31st January 2013, the driver of an SPSV vehicle must notify the NTA of the vehicle he or she is operating and the period of operation. A web portal, smartphone app and the industry information line can all be used to keep this information up to date.

AGE LIMITS

From 31st January 2013, age limits will apply for all renewals, vehicle changes and new licences entering the fleet as per the graphic to the right.

Taxis and Hackneys

Taxi licences which have been the subject of a transfer since 8th June 2010 will continue to be subject to the additional current requirement that any replacement vehicle on such transferred licence shall be no older than the existing vehicle associated with the licence.



Wheelchair Accessible Taxis and Wheelchair Accessible Hackneys

If the vehicle was associated with the licence on 1st January 2013, it can operate up to the 15th birthday*. Otherwise the vehicle can only operate up to the 10th birthday*.

* Birthday is calculated from the date of first registration of the vehicle.

FARE REVIEW

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has concluded a review of the current national maximum taxi fares. A review of national taxi fares has been undertaken to date on a two year cycle, with the last review carried out in 2010. Maximum taxi fares have remained unchanged since 2008 — the 2010 review concluded without any fare changes.

The NTA carried out a fare review analysis over recent months. It identified that there had been an increase in the cost of taxi operation since 2010, particularly associated with fuel costs. That overall increase since 2010 was in the order of 4%, broadly equivalent to the increase in the consumer price index over the same period.

A proposal for a fares increase of approximately 4%, inclusive of a fare structure simplification, was put forward as part

of a public consultation process. Of the 195 submissions received, mainly from the taxi industry, over 90% were opposed to the fare increase proposal.

The Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles, which is a body established under legislation to provide advice on taxi related matters, was consulted, as were the other statutory consultees specified in the relevant legislation. The advice received from the Advisory Committee was that there should be no increase to the national maximum taxi fares at this time.

The Board of the NTA considered the fare review at its meeting on 14th December 2012. Based on the advice of the Advisory Committee and the outcome of the consultation process, the Board decided that no changes be made to the current National Maximum Fares Order at this time.

National Maximum Taxi Fare Effective from 1 November 2008		
Standard rate	Premium rate	Extras <small>Where relevant</small>
8.00h-20.00h INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs €4.10 Fixed	20.00h-8.00h & Sundays & public holidays* INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs €4.45 Fixed	Booking fee €2.00. Extra adults: second and additional passengers €1.00 each.
TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €18.70 €1.03 per km or €0.36 per min	TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €23.45 €1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	Extra children under 12: 1 free 2 or 3 €1.00 4 or 5 €2.00 6 or 7 €3.00.
TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €18.90 €1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €47.05 €1.57 per km or €0.55 per min	Road toll charges as incurred. Solling charge €140.00.
TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €38.90 €1.77 per km or €0.63 per min	TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €47.05 €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>	

New Regulations

New regulations under the Taxi Regulation Act 2003 are as follows:

- 1 Taxi Branding Regulations
- 2 Revised Vehicle Standards Regulations
- 3 Vehicle Licensing Regulations
- 4 Fixed Charge Offences Regulations

A copy of the Regulations as adopted by the Board of the National Transport Authority is available on the Authority's website at www.nationaltransport.ie

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas 2012	SPSV Information Line 0761 064 000	Inspection Booking Line 1890 927 977
24 December 2012	09:00 – 13:00	09:00 – 16:00
25 December 2012	Closed	Closed
26 December 2012	Closed	Closed
27 December 2012	09:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 16:00
28 December 2012	09:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 16:00
29 December 2012	Closed	Closed
30 December 2012	Closed	Closed
31 December 2012	09:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 16:00
01 January 2013	Closed	Closed
02 January 2013	09:00 – 18:00	09:00 – 18:00



We would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.