

## NATIONAL MAXIMUM TAXI FARES ORDER – COMMENCES THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2015



A public consultation process on a revised national maximum fares order was undertaken in November and December. 592 submissions were received, predominately from the taxi industry and including a number of multiple-signatory petitions. The majority were in favour of an increase in the maximum fare.

Following consideration of the submissions, and the advice of the Advisory Committee, the Board of the NTA adopted a revised proposal which included an increased daytime Tariff B rate from that set out at the consultation stage.

The National Maximum Taxi Fares Order 2015 will come into operation on April 30, 2015.

The new maximum taxi fare represents an average increase of about 4%, and includes a reduction in the number of fare bands to two (A and B), plus a reduction in the initial hiring charge.

The reduction in the initial hiring charge is accompanied by a reduction in the distance and time included in the charge. This means that the meter will start to increment after 500 metres, rather than the 1,000 metres at present, and that by the time the vehicle travels one kilometre, the fare amount on the meter will be at or above the current initial charge.

	Standard Rate (08.00h-20.00h)	Premium Rate (20.00h - 08.00h) + Sundays + bank holidays
Initial Charge Distance Allowance (m) Time Allowance (secs)	<b>€3.60</b> 500 85	<b>€4.00</b> 500 85
Tariff A (up to 15km)	<b>€1.10 per km</b> or €0.39 per min	<b>€1.40 per km</b> or €0.49 per min
Tariff B (over 15km)	<b>€1.45 per km</b> or €0.51 per min	<b>€1.75 per km</b> or €0.62 per min
Extras		
Passengers	<b>€1.00</b>	<b>€1.00</b>
Booking Fee	<b>€2.00</b>	<b>€2.00</b>

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?



### NOW

1. Contact your meter installer and find out if approval has been received from the Legal Metrology Service for the updated programme for your taximeter
2. Confirm with your installer that your meter can operate with dual programmes – the existing fares structure up to 29 April and the new maximum fare structure from 30 April
3. Book your vehicle with your installer for the installation of the dual programmes
4. Get your meter calibrated by your installer

### MARCH

1. Contact Applus in early March on 01 413 5951 to make a booking for your meter to be verified and sealed
2. Get your meter verified and sealed

## METER VERIFICATION AND SEALING

Your reprogrammed taximeter will need to be verified and fitted with a security seal. Applus, contractors for the Legal Metrology Service, will be commencing meter verifications for the new programmes in March.

Because of the level of activity in reprogramming and sealing of meters associated with a maximum fare change, the new regulations provide that the normal requirement to operate only with a meter which has been verified and sealed is suspended during the three month period prior to the fare changeover date. Accordingly, for the period from 01 February to 30 April, drivers will be able to operate their vehicles without a sealed meter. However, the meter must still be programmed and set up to operate the existing fares order correctly during this period and not to do so still remains an offence. It is only the Legal Metrology Service verification and sealing that is suspended during this three month period.

In addition, the requirement for a verified and sealed meter at vehicle licence renewal is suspended during this three month change over period of February, March and April.

## REPROGRAMMING YOUR TAXIMETER - BEFORE 30 APRIL 2015



All taximeters must be reprogrammed with the new fare structure before Thursday 30 April. After that date you will not be able to operate your vehicle unless its meter is calculating the new fare.

Until 30 April, meters will still have to operate to the existing fares programme. Most meters can accommodate dual programmes that will use the existing programme up to 30 April and then switch automatically to the new programme on that date.

You need to contact your meter installer to get your meter reprogrammed before the end of April. However, each installer must have their programmes approved by the Legal Metrology Service prior to its installation in vehicles. That approval process has commenced and several programmes have already been approved for installation. Check with your meter provider that their programme has been approved by the Legal Metrology Service prior to having your taximeter updated.

# TAXI REGULATION (SMALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE) REGULATIONS 2015

A number of new regulations came into effect on 31 January 2015 as part of the Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 33 of 2015). These regulations replace the previous regulations and include the following main changes:



- The taximeter must be operated for all hires in a taxi. Even if a fare is agreed in advance, the meter must still be operated for the journey;
- Where a fare is agreed in advance, the taxi driver can only charge the lower of the pre-agreed fare or the fare calculated on the taximeter. So if the pre-agreed fare is more than the fare on the meter, the driver can only charge the fare on the meter;
- A taxi roof sign may only be fixed to the roof of a vehicle in a public place if it is being used for the carriage, or for the intended carriage, of passengers for reward;
- A list of vehicles suitable for licensing in the limousine category will be published and only vehicles on the list will be eligible for new limousine licences or as replacement vehicles on an existing limousine licence; and
- Vehicle licence renewal or change of vehicle fees for standard taxis, standard hackneys or limousines increases to €150 – this is the first renewal fee increase since 1995. Vehicle licence renewal fees for wheelchair accessible vehicles reduce to €75.

There are a number of other changes in the revised regulations and a full copy of the regulations is available on our website – [www.nationaltransport.ie](http://www.nationaltransport.ie). Please make yourself familiar with the changes and contact us with any queries.

## COMMUNICATIONS - EMAIL AND SMS



State agencies, including NTA, are moving to electronic communications. It is essential that we have the correct email and mobile telephone number for all licence holders so that you can be notified of changes and news in the industry.

Driver Licence renewal notices will shortly be transferred to email communication which is quicker and more efficient and all industry updates are already issued by email.

**Please contact the Information Line on 0761 064 000** to update your email and telephone contacts to ensure you do not miss out on important news and notifications.

## ROAD TRAFFIC ACTS 1961 TO 2014 (SMALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE) (FIXED CHARGE OFFENCES) REGULATIONS 2014

These Regulations set out the offences relating to the operation of small public service vehicles for which fixed charge notices may be issued by An Garda Síochána. They went live on the Garda PULSE System on Monday 02 February 2015 mirroring the Fixed Payment Offences in place under the SPSV Regulations.

# COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY NOVEMBER 2014 TO JANUARY 2015

## Roadside audits, detections and convictions at District Court

	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2014
Full vehicle roadside audits	1979	1520	1451
Unlicensed operators detected	3	1	5
Convictions at the District court	1	5	4

## FIXED PAYMENT NOTICES NOVEMBER 2014 TO JANUARY 2015 - 280

The majority of Fixed Penalty Notices between November 2014 and January 2015 were for “standing for hire in a taxi otherwise than at an appointed stand” (83) and “failure to notify details of SPSV being operated” (‘Driver to vehicle link’) (123).

	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2014
Vehicle condition	2	5	3
Driver behaviour	40	69	27
Fares matters	19	25	25
Hiring matters	10	14	5
Identification	0	0	0
Total	71	113	60

The Authority will be undertaking 61 prosecutions at a number of District Courts across the country in February.

Any reports of illegal activity can be made anonymously on the “Confidential Line” 0761 065 000.

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME 2014



The Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Grant Scheme 2014 ran from 01 July to 24 December to encourage the increase of wheelchair accessible taxi and hackney vehicles in the Irish SPSV fleet.

128 grants were issued - ranging from €10,000 for a new vehicle to €3,000 for a five year old vehicle.

The greatly increased uptake in this scheme compared to

previous schemes has been attributed to the reduced size and, therefore, increased affordability of WAVs on foot of alterations to WAV specifications brought in last April.

Compliance officers will commence audits of all grant recipients to ensure adherence to regulations and the obligations set out within the Grant Scheme in the coming weeks.

## KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED

Keep yourself informed by visiting [www.nationaltransport.ie](http://www.nationaltransport.ie) regularly for the latest SPSV news and updates.

