

MANDATORY SPSV DRIVER SAFETY EQUIPMENT CONSULTATION



Over 28,500 SPSV drivers around the country operate within an almost unique set of circumstances on a daily basis. These circumstances combine lone working and 24 hour/ 365 day a year availability to provide door to door public transport services on unscheduled routes, with the handling and storage of money, and the possibility of experiencing both threats to personal security and violence at work. In recognition of driver safety issues, the Taxi Regulation Review Group's Report 2012 recommended a consultation process be carried out in relation to the possibilities and merits of introducing mandatory installation of driver safety equipment in vehicles. Potential options tabled to encourage debate included:

- In-vehicle security cameras (CCTV);
- A partition separating the driver front seat area from the remainder of the vehicle;
- A locational alert system; or
- Other new technology based options.

Please log onto the Current Consultations section of our website www.nationaltransport.ie to read the short consultation document which invites your submission in relation to the introduction of mandatory safety equipment for SPSVs and their drivers. Mandatory safety equipment design could range from a simple full view interior mirror through to real time, live, locational and identification aids. In particular your views are sought on the following:

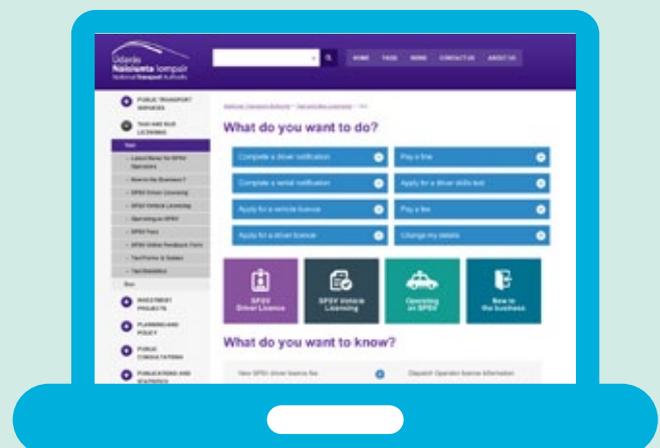
1. Do you consider that safety equipment in SPSVs should be made mandatory?
2. If you do consider that safety equipment in SPSVs should be made mandatory, please state any suggestions or proposals that you wish to have considered.

Submissions, clearly marked “Mandatory SPSV Driver Safety Equipment Consultation 2015”, must be received by the Authority by 5pm, Friday 25 September 2015 either by email or post to the address details below:

Post: Driver Safety, National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2.

Email: driversafety@nationaltransport.ie

Submissions received are likely to be made publicly available and only information which can be published in full should be provided in submissions.



TAXI ROOF SIGNS CONSULTATION



We invite your opinions and ideas in relation to Action 13 of the 2012 Report of the Taxi Regulation Review Group which states:

“To design, for consultation with the industry, a new taxi roof sign that is more compact, is subject to restricted availability from authorised suppliers, and can display a greater level of information for consumer and compliance improvements. Consideration will be given to the use of electronic displays as part of the roof sign and the future-proofing of the sign to link with future developments in the area of taxi technology.”

Please log onto the Current Consultations section of our website www.nationaltransport.ie to read the short consultation document which invites your submission in relation to a possible new roof sign for taxis. In particular your views are sought on the following:

1. Do you consider that a new taxi roof sign is required?
2. If you do consider that a new taxi roof sign is required, please state any suggestions or proposals that you wish to have considered.

Submissions, clearly marked **“Taxi Roof Sign Consultation”**, must be received by the Authority by 5pm, Friday 25 September 2015 either by email or post to the address details below:

Post: Taxi Roof Signs, National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2.

Email: taxiroofsign@nationaltransport.ie

Submissions received are likely to be made publicly available and only information which can be published in full should be provided in submissions.

WAV15 GRANT SCHEME – WAITING LIST STATUS

230 applications have been received so far for WAV15 – the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Grant Scheme which opened on 01 July 2015. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, 30 October 2015

This Scheme aims to encourage the wider availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles in Ireland’s fleet. It offers disability awareness training, together with financial assistance of up to €10,000 (depending on vehicle age) to purchase a WAV or to convert to a WAV.

Provisional offers have issued on a first come, first served basis and applicants are currently being placed on a waiting list to be considered for the WAV15 Grant Scheme as provisional offers lapse.

Provisional offers are only valid until the earliest date of (a) three months from the date of the provisional offer letter, (b) Monday, 30 November or (c) when the funding limit is reached.

Monday 30 November 2015 is the closing date for the WAV15 Grant Scheme. This means that to qualify for the Grant monies, a provisional offer must have been received, all Scheme conditions fulfilled and the proposed wheelchair accessible vehicle must have passed its initial suitability test and have been licensed by Monday 30 November 2015.



RENTING A VEHICLE

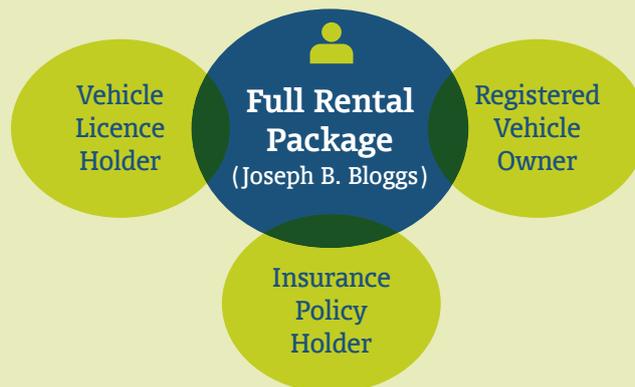


Recently our Information Line has received a number of queries in relation to renting a vehicle and who may insure it. A vehicle licence can only be rented in conjunction with the fully insured vehicle. It is not permissible for a non-owner driver to insure a vehicle.

Regulation 50 of the Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015 explains the “full rental package” as it is commonly known. The holder of the vehicle licence must be the registered owner of the vehicle (or be able to show that they are legally entitled to the use and possession of the vehicle for 12 months or longer) and maintain the insurance on it.

The vehicle licence holder must also be satisfied that the proposed driver of their vehicle holds a current licence to drive small public service vehicles.

25% of the fail items at inspections in July related to insurance matters. Remember to bring the original insurance certificate to the inspection and ensure that the name on the vehicle licence is exactly the same as the name on the SPSV specific insurance certificate.



SPSVS IN THE IRISH FLEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

21,209

Small Public Service Vehicles



17,485

Taxis

c60%

Operate in the Greater Dublin Area

IRELAND'S SPSV FLEET

Vehicles in the SPSV Industry peaked at 27,429 in 2008. Since then, the overall fleet size has decreased by 23% to a total of 21,209 active vehicle licences as of 30 June 2015.

Active Vehicle Licences



IRELAND'S SPSV DRIVERS

The number of active driver licences has reduced by 38% from the peak of 47,529 in May 2009 to a level of 29,457 at the end of 2014. There has also been a decline in the number of new drivers entering the SPSV industry, with 528 new driving licences issued in 2014. Approximately 54% of drivers hold a Dublin licence entitlement.

Active Driver Licences



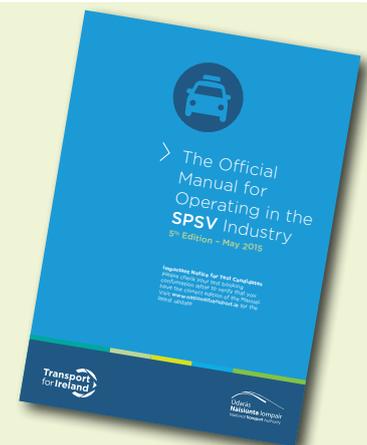
REMINDER - INSPECTIONS



Vehicles must remain compliant with SPSV Regulations at all times when operating. Remember certain safety equipment items may have expiry dates, such as sterile items in the First Aid kit and fire extinguishers. Please check your equipment each time you drive to avoid a fine or a fail.

NEW OFFICIAL MANUAL FOR OPERATING IN THE SPSV INDUSTRY-NEW INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE TEST

The National Transport Authority's Skills Development Programme for SPSV operators is designed to help you develop the knowledge and skills that you need to operate in the SPSV industry. These are detailed in the Official Manual for Operating in the SPSV Industry which is the textbook for the Industry Knowledge Test. The 5th edition of the Official Manual for Operating in the SPSV Industry, [downloadable here](#), has been updated to incorporate the changes introduced by recent legislation.



THANK YOU

The members of the Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles are appointed by the Minister for Transport to advise the Authority or the Minister, as appropriate, in relation to issues relevant to small public service vehicles and their drivers. Each member may serve a three year term and may be reappointed by the Minister. The Authority would like to extend its sincere thanks to the members of the outgoing Committee, which held its last meeting on 31 July and looks forward to welcoming the newly appointed Committee in due course.