

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS



So far this year, the Compliance Team has:

Completed
30,948
checks and audits
of SPSVs & their
operators

Detected
119
unlicensed operators
(no driver licence,
no vehicle licence
or neither)

Issued
583
Fixed Payment
Notices

Prosecuted
211
operators for
various regulatory
breaches

Investigated
744
complaints against
SPSV operators

with the largest
category being “the
conduct, behaviour
and identification of
a driver”

Multi-Agency Operations

Following information provided by an industry member, Compliance Officers investigated the offering of unlicensed SPSV services via the internet by two separate operators. The advertised services were aimed at foreign nationals living in or visiting Ireland. The Authority booked the services in the language used in the advertisements and, at an agreed location, Compliance Officers met with the operators and undertook journeys. With the assistance of the Gardaí, both operators were apprehended and both will now be the subject of multi-agency prosecution files. Further investigations are being undertaken into similar services.

Tourist Services

Compliance Officers check all SPSVs, not just taxis. Licensing requirements apply to all SPSVs and their drivers. Compliance operations are undertaken at any location where it is believed that an SPSV may be present. So, checks are carried out not only at taxi ranks but, also, our Compliance Officers visit popular tourist locations where small public service vehicles may be present. As the result of one such visit in Munster, the Authority successfully prosecuted two individuals at the District Court for the operation of a limousine by an unlicensed driver. The Taxi Regulation Act 2013 makes it not only an offence to operate an SPSV without a valid SPSV Driver's Licence but, also for that vehicle's licence holder to permit an unlicensed driver to operate that vehicle.

Driver to Vehicle Link

So far this year, there have been 58 successful prosecutions of operators who did not pay the Fixed Penalty Amount of €40 for a failure to notify details of the SPSV being operated to the Authority – commonly called the “Driver to Vehicle Link”. On conviction, the fines imposed by the District Court were up to €800, with costs payable to the Authority of a further €400 and the offenders were given 3 months to pay or face 7 days imprisonment under the Fines Act 2010. We urge all operators to download the **SPSV Industry App** on **Apple** or **Android** to make linking as fast and easy as possible and to keep a history of all your details and links, or use the **website**, text facility or Information Line.

SPSV ONLINE SERVICES DRIVER LINK NOTIFICATIONS



The Authority maintains an electronic database of links between each licensed SPSV and its current licensed driver. It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that this information is constantly up to date. The driver does this by informing the Authority whenever they start driving a different vehicle. This information feeds to the **Driver Check App** used by the public to ensure that the vehicle and driver they intend to use are licensed and registered with the Authority.

SPSV Online Services is a new web-based service that provides a simpler and better way to link yourself to a vehicle and now to view your history, with intuitive screens and a full history of all links created, changed or broken. Notifications of link changes will be sent

to both affected drivers and vehicle licence holders. Another new feature will allow you to view and print copies of your notifications directly from the web.

Current users: Download the software update when requested. Driver links will now be responsive to licensing changes, for example, you will need to create a new link if you change the vehicle on your licence or if your driver licence expires. You use the same email address and password at log in - just add your driver licence number.

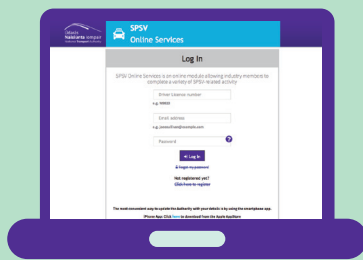
New Users: Call 0761 064 000 or email taxis@nationaltransport.ie to receive your NTA Account Registration Number and be talked through the process.



4 ways to comply with this legal requirement

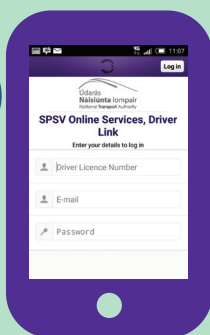
SPSV Online Services

1



SPSV online
<https://spsvonline.nationaltransport.ie>

2



SPSV Industry App
Download free from
[iTunes](#) and [Android](#)
app stores

3

Text
51444

4

**SPSV Information
Line 0761 064 000**

New SPSV Online Services Benefits



No change to your current username, password or links. Just add your driver licence number



Get notified when links are made, broken or changed



View full history of all links and notifications



Keep your information up-to-date on the public facing Driver Check App



Responsive to licensing changes



Update your personal contact details yourself



Easier to use and navigate

WAV15 – WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME 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.

361 applications were received for WAV15 which opened on 01 July 2015 and closed for applications on 30 October 2015. The original funding limit was reached and additional funding was provided to allow the Authority to make 335 offers. Over 120 payments have already issued, with another 30 expected.

To receive the WAV15 Grant, all of the following must have been completed by 30 November 2015:

- 1 a provisional grant offer letter must have been received;
- 2 the proposed wheelchair accessible vehicle must have been licensed; and
- 3 the proposed driver must have completed a Disability Awareness Training Course.

Applications were dealt with on a first received basis. Those who applied later in the application period had a shorter window to complete the process.

OCTOBER'S VEHICLE INSPECTION FAILS

Whilst the overall fail rate for the vehicle inspections remains low, many fail items are easily avoidable. Over 18% of the fail items at October inspections related to insurance matters, with over 15% failing under the heading "Cleanliness, Doors and Window Operation". Non-compliant safety equipment also featured highly. Remember to bring your original SPSV specific insurance certificate to the inspection, with the name on the certificate exactly matching the name on your vehicle licence.

FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN INSURANCE?



There are several insurance brokers in Ireland with specific experience in assisting SPSV operators and, if you are having difficulty obtaining cover, they should be your first port of call.

They will also be able to provide you with information on the Declined Cases Agreement operated by Insurance Ireland, which represents 95% of the domestic insurance market. Under this agreement, the motor insurance market will not refuse to provide insurance to an individual seeking insurance, if he/she has approached at least three insurers and has not been able to obtain cover from them. Insurers can only refuse cover where to provide insurance would be contrary to the public interest. In general, the insurer first approached will be required to provide a quote, so it is important to keep a record of the order in which you or your broker approached each of the three companies. The Declined Cases Committee can also decide whether a quote is so high or the terms so excessive as to make the quote tantamount to a refusal. For more information on the Declined Cases Agreement, contact [Insurance Ireland's Insurance Information Service](#).

REMINDER FOR MODIFIED VEHICLE LICENCE HOLDERS



TECHNICAL ASSESSOR'S BASIC REPORT REQUIRED FOR RENEWALS FROM JANUARY 2016

Stretched Limousines - Replica Wedding Cars - Wheelchair Accessible or Converted SPSVs

Under Regulation 29 of the Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015, an application for the renewal of a licence on a modified vehicle must be accompanied by a Technical Assessor's Basic Report at the first renewal inspection on or after 1 January 2016 and, then, once every five years. There is a one page template for this report on the [Forms and Guides](#) page of our website, together with a list of FAQs.

This Basic Report must be completed by a suitably qualified engineer/assessor less than 60 days before the renewal inspection and a copy handed to your Inspector. If you don't have a copy with you at your vehicle inspection, your licence cannot be renewed.

"Modified vehicles" include:

- Any taxi, hackney or limousine where the seating is not original, e.g. vehicles originally converted from a panel van;
- Stretched limousines including funeral mourning cars and replica style wedding cars built from kit components; and
- Wheelchair accessible taxi licences first granted before 8th June 2010, i.e. licence numbered below 47,000.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SMALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

The following members of the Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles have been 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 welcome the members of the incoming Committee, which is due to hold its first meeting in the coming weeks.

Pat Byrne (Chairman) Former Garda Commissioner
Martin Plummer National Chauffeur Drivers Association
Gerard Macken Taxi Alliance of Ireland
David McGuinness Tiománaí Tacsáí na hÉireann
Joe Herron Irish Taxi Driver Federation
Robert Lynch Cork Taxi Council
Superintendent Con O'Donohue Garda National Traffic Bureau
Declan Wallace County & City Managers' Association
Michael Kilcoyne Consumers' Association of Ireland
Al Ryan Irish Hotels Federation
Shane Hogan National Disability Authority
Mike Jones Chambers Ireland
Mairead Hayes Ordinary Member
Stephen Cluskey Ordinary Member
Vacancies Advertised (3)
 Public Appointments Service Website

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS



Nearly 5,000 submissions were received on foot of our Public Consultations on Mandatory SPSV Driver Safety Equipment and Taxi Roof Signs in August and September. These are currently being reviewed and collated. A report will be brought to the Advisory Committee on SPSVs in January for its consideration.



ANTI-RACISM AND DIVERSITY

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has funded the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) to run a project "Mainstreaming Equality & Non-discrimination in Public Transport Industry". The project is a continuation of ICI's earlier work with public transport companies around issues of anti-racism and diversity management. The ICI plans to conduct 3 training sessions (Dublin, Waterford and Galway) for taxi drivers on the issues of racism and discrimination. The ICI also provides ongoing services for victims or witnesses of racism or discrimination. Please contact stopracism@immigrantcouncil.ie for further information.