



## UNLICENSED OPERATORS

Compliance Officers continue to meet drivers who are operating whilst their Driver Licence renewal is under consideration by An Garda Síochána. Remember, you can only operate while the PSV Office reviews your continuing suitability to hold a licence if your renewal application was made over six weeks before the expiry date on your licence. Otherwise, it is illegal to operate an SPSV until the renewal has been determined by the relevant PSV Office.

If a driver is found to be operating without a valid licence, the Authority will prosecute where warranted. In 2016, over 130 individuals were detected without valid SPSV Driver Licences.

In 2016, 131 court cases brought were by way of direct prosecution for a breach of the legislation outside of Fixed Payment Offences/on the spot fines, following specific operations and detection by compliance officers. Of those, 49 cases were prosecuted for not holding a valid SPSV Driver's Licence, 32 for not a valid SPSV Vehicle Licence 14 for not having either a SPSV Driver's Licence or a SPSV Vehicle Licence and 15 for allowing an unlicensed driver or vehicle to operate. In addition, 21 cases were prosecuted for other breaches of regulations and 77 further cases were brought for the non-payment of Fixed Payment Notices.

In total, more than 92% of court cases prosecuted by the Authority were successful.

### If you have information regarding an illegal operator, please provide details to the Compliance Team by:

**E-mail:** [compliance@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:compliance@nationaltransport.ie)  
subject "Illegal Operator Report"

**Telephone:** 0761 06 4000  
(8.30am-6pm Monday to Friday)  
mention "Illegal Operator Report"

**Post:** SPSV Compliance, PO Box 436,  
City North Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway

When contacting us please confirm that this is an Illegal Operator Report. Your information should include as much detail as possible including:

› The identity of the driver;

- › The identity of the car - registration, make, model, colour, etc; Where and when the driver/vehicle was seen operating;
- › Any regular areas or times of operating;
- › How can the illegal operator be hired e.g. adverts of their services, etc; and
- › Anything else you think might assist in a detection and successful prosecution.

A member of the Compliance Team will investigate every complaint made, so please provide plenty of detail to help us obtain enough evidence to prosecute the offenders.

Details of an illegal operator should not be reported through the Driver Check App because enough information cannot be provided there to allow an investigation.

Remember, An Garda Síochána has the same powers as the Authority in relation to unlicensed operators, so please contact your local Garda station if you have a concern which requires immediate attention.

# PROSECUTIONS 2016 BY OFFENCE CATEGORY

CATEGORY	NUMBER
Unlicensed SPSV Operator	
No Driver Licence	49
No Vehicle Licence	32
No driver and no vehicle licence	14
Allowing an unlicensed driver / vehicle to operate	15
Dispatch Operator	2
Unfit Vehicle	4
Driver behaviour	1
Obstructing an Authorised Person	1
Exceeding the maximum passengers allowed	1
Use of signage/identification on an unlicensed vehicle	9
Advertising an unlicensed SPSV vehicle/service	3
Failure to pay Fixed Payment Penalty	77
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>208</b>



## CHECKS, AUDITS AND FINES

Compliance activities include vehicle and driver licensing checks, roadside vehicle and driver audits, investigating consumer complaints and participation in multi-agency compliance operations (e.g. with An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection).

Using new technology, Compliance Officers are able to undertake rapid, real-time checks of SPSVs observed operating. The introduction of this in July 2015 enabled Compliance Officers to check each SPSV, including the status of both driver and vehicle licence in real time, and then focus comprehensive audits on vehicles and drivers where compliance issues are identified. These checks have resulted in a marked increase of checks of SPSVs with a minimum of disruption to compliant operators and their passengers.

Over 90,000 checks were undertaken throughout 2016, representing 18,804 individual vehicles, or over 90% of licensed vehicles. Compliance Officers undertook 12,012 formal audits at the roadside following these checks and 1,099 Fixed Payment Notices were issued for a variety of offences.

In 2016, Compliance Officers completed full audits on approximately 13% of vehicles checked and, arising from these audits, detected offences which warranted a Fixed Payment Notice in 9% of cases.

The highest volume of fixed payment notices issued related to drivers failing to notify details of the vehicle being operated – Driver Linking - the legal requirement for a driver to register the vehicle being driven with the central database system managed by the Authority. This database supports the Driver Check App, which allows passengers or intending passengers to assess the licensed status of their chosen vehicle and driver and to report non-compliance.

Fixed Payment Notices issued by the Authority have 82% payment conformity; the remainder proceed to court for prosecution.

### PSV CHECKS, AUDITS AND FIXED PAYMENT NOTICES

YEAR	NO. OF CHECKS	NO. OF ROADSIDE AUDITS	FIXED PAYMENT NOTICES
2014	N/A	28,291	1,369
2015	29,123	11,765	692
2016	90,243	12,012	1,099





## RESEARCH BEFORE BUYING

Changing a vehicle on a licence is a common transaction. For all licences (except limousine) there are age limits. Replacement taxi, hackney, wheelchair accessible taxi and wheelchair accessible hackney vehicles must be no more than nine years of age, i.e. not past 10th birthday by day, month and year.

Taxis and hackneys must also meet certain objective size criteria. The Model Report on the website lists many suitable vehicles. They must also have “clear” glass which cannot be determined from this list, see the Initial Suitability Inspection Manual on the website for details on how to check this yourself.

Wheelchair accessible taxis and wheelchair accessible hackneys require a Technical Assessor’s Full Report complete with formal test proof of the integrity of the conversion. Only the vehicle convertor will be able to provide this test based evidence. Without it a vehicle cannot be licensed. Such test data cannot be obtained retrospectively as the tests are destructive.



## SEAL YOUR METER

**Legal Metrology** has asked us to remind all Vehicle Licence Holders that when taximeters are transferred from one vehicle to another, for example, at change of vehicle, the meter must not only be calibrated (programmed) but also verified or sealed again. To make a taximeter verification booking contact Applus on (01) 4135951.

The taximeter must be calibrated with the replacement vehicle registration number, tyre size and gearing information (k factor) to pass the Initial Suitability Test. After that, it must be re-verified and a new seal applied in the replacement vehicle. It is illegal to reapply used verification seals.

It is a criminal offence to operate an unverified taximeter and the owner and the operator are both potentially liable to a fine of up to €4000 or up to 12 months imprisonment, or both.

## WHO GETS YOUR LICENCE AFTER YOU?

We encourage all vehicle licence holders to complete a Section 15 nomination form to assign your vehicle licence to another person after you die (see website for details). Once the form is filed with the Authority, the licence holder can change their mind and notify us of a new nominee at any time prior to their death, free of charge and without any permission from the original nominee.

## DEAD LICENCES - 12 MONTHS

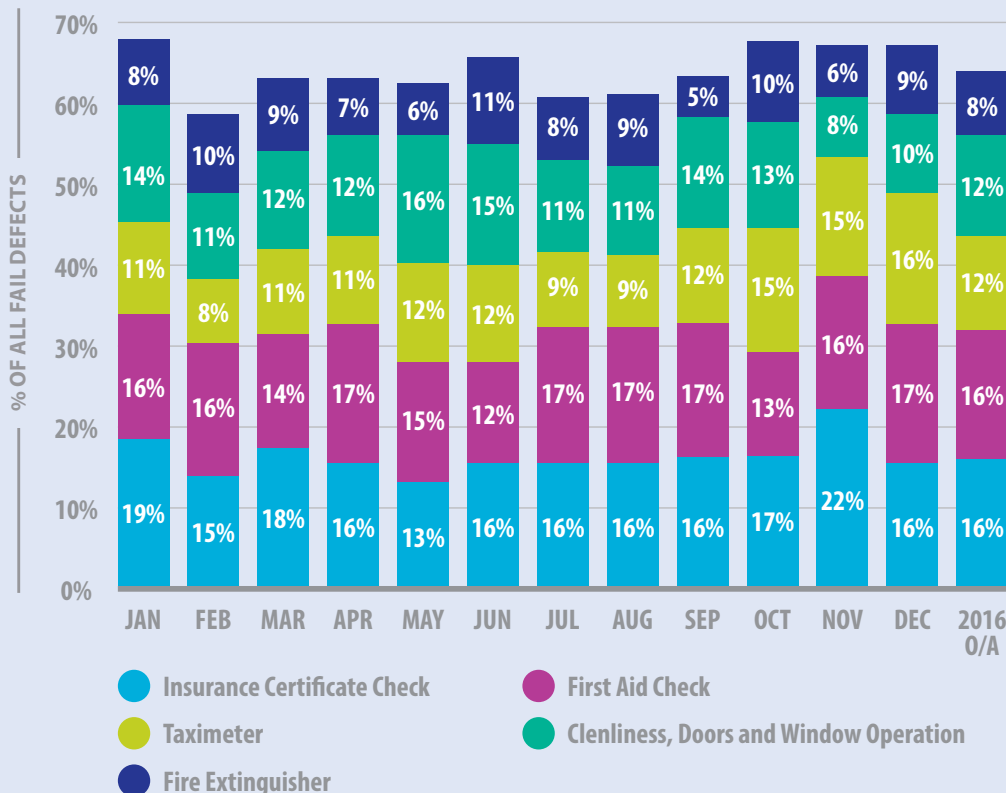
The maximum period a licence can remain dormant is one year. It will be dead forever unless renewed within 12 months.

If you don’t want to drive your licensed vehicle, you could keep an income from it by permitting another licensed driver rent it. A vehicle licence holder can rent out their licensed vehicle with appropriate insurance for a person driving it.



# 2016 TOP 5 VEHICLE INSPECTION DEFECT GROUPS BY PERCENTAGE OF MONTHLY TOTALS

Approximately 8% of vehicles fail their inspections every month. However, the top five reasons are the same every month and are easy to fix before the inspection.



## INSURANCE CERTIFICATE

- › missing
- › not the original
- › in wrong name
- › out of date
- › for wrong car

## FIRST AID KIT

- › missing or missing items
- › out of date (sterile plasters, etc)
- › not to standard

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- › Missing
- › Out of date
- › Not 2kg

## TAXIMETER

- › Printer not working, no paper, no ink, etc
- › Wrong dates / time
- › Not sealed

## CLEANLINESS, DOORS AND WINDOW OPERATION

- › Bad odours
- › Dirty - internal or external
- › Shoddy fabric
- › Windows/doors not functioning properly

**BOOK IN TIME TO GET THE CENTRE YOU WANT**

You can renew your vehicle licence up to 60 days before its expiry date without changing that expiry date

## NATIONAL MAXIMUM TAXI FARE REVIEW

The current telephone survey of taxi drivers will be completed by the first week in March as part of the biennial National Maximum Taxi Fare Review. The Review is carried out to allow adjustments for changes in taxi operating costs and the market facing the taxi industry. This telephone survey will then feed into an overall review which includes consumer surveys, market conditions and an examination of the cost of operating a taxi, including insurance premiums. The review is expected to be completed in the coming months

## TAXI ROOFSIGNS MUST BE LIT WHEN AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Make sure the roofsign lighting is strong enough to be easily seen.

## DRIVERS MUST MUST PRINT AND OFFER A RECEIPT TO THE PASSENGER

Even if they get one separately from a booking company or App

## THE LARGE DRIVER ID CARD MUST BE VISIBLE ON THE DASHBOARD AT ALL TIMES WHEN YOU ARE OPERATING



## EARLY NOTICE – WAV17 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME 2017

The Authority has received news that limited funding of €750,000 will be made available for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Grant Scheme to open next April to continue to encourage the wider availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles in Ireland's fleet.

This Grant Scheme, WAV17, will offer disability awareness training, together with financial assistance of up to €10,000 (depending on vehicle age) to purchase a WAV. Assistance can be for new licences, an upgrade of a vehicle on an existing licence or standard taxi licence holders looking to exchange to a WAT. All application forms, terms and conditions will be available on the Authority's website on Monday, 3 April 2017.

WAV17 applications must be received by the Authority before Friday, 27 October 2017. Applications will be dealt with on a first received basis. Therefore, those who submit applications later in the application period will have a shorter window to complete the process. However, as soon as the funding is provisionally offered, a waiting list will operate and there is absolutely no guarantee that an applicant will get a provisional offer. The vehicle must have successfully passed its inspection by 30 November 2017 to qualify for the grant and the proposed driver must have successfully completed the free Disability Awareness Training course to receive funding under the Scheme.

New Vehicle (less than 3,000km and 3 months old)	<b>€10,000</b>
Vehicle less than one year of age	<b>€8,000</b>
Vehicle less than two years of age	<b>€6,500</b>
Vehicle less than three years of age	<b>€5,000</b>
Vehicle less than four years of age	<b>€4,000</b>
Vehicle less than five years of age	<b>€3,500</b>
Vehicle less than six years of age	<b>€3,000</b>

In 2014, 2015 and 2016 our Grant Schemes issued 128, 153 and 335 grants respectively. All WAV17 Grant Scheme details will be on our website on 3 April.