



LMS (APPLUS) VERIFICATION CENTRES BOOKING UP

12,599 taximeters were capable of verification or sealing in October, November and December last year as highlighted on our website weekly and by reminder alerts direct to licence holders; 291 licence holders took advantage of this. In all, 84% of the fleet was verifiable before the 01 February Fare Change but only 7% prepared in this way. It is understood that some private meter programme suppliers chose not to provide LMS with a new programme for approval until the end of January or, indeed, not at all. This is not within the remit of NTA or LMS as it is a private contract matter.

Legal Metrology Services (LMS) through its contractor Applus currently has 7,500 verification bookings in its system and has opened extra capacity in all its centres nationwide, together with two additional centres. Given the demand at the moment, you must be prepared to travel to another centre if your first choice is unavailable. This is unavoidable due to the volume of appointments sought after the fare change commenced.

To arrange a verification appointment with Applus (LMS) call 01 413 5951 and book into the earliest appointment available at the following centres:

Dublin

- | | | |
|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Ballymount | Unit S1 Ballymount Ind. Est., Ballymount Drive, Dublin |
| 2 | Greenhills | Greenhills Inspection Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24 |
| 3 | Northpoint | Northpoint Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin |

Midlands

- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 4 | Cavan | Pullamore, Cavan Town, Co. Cavan |
| 5 | Kilkenny | Cillin Hill Business and Retail Park, Co. Kilkenny |
| 6 | Athlone | Kilmartin N6 Service Station, N6 Centre, Athlone, Co. Westmeath |

West

- | | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 7 | Galway | Merlin Commercial Park, Merlin Park, Co. Galway |
| 8 | Limerick | Eastway Business Park, Co. Limerick |

Northwest

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--|
| 9 | Letterkenny | Dry Arch Business Park, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal |
|---|-------------|--|

10	Sligo	Unit 7 Meadowbank Industrial Estate, Rathedmond Road, Co. Sligo
11	Westpoint	Site of NCF Co-Op Mart, Westport, Co. Mayo

South

12	Killarney	Woodlands Commercial Park, Killarney, Co. Kerry
13	Cork	Unit 6 Karlbrook Enterprise Park, Wilton, Co. Cork

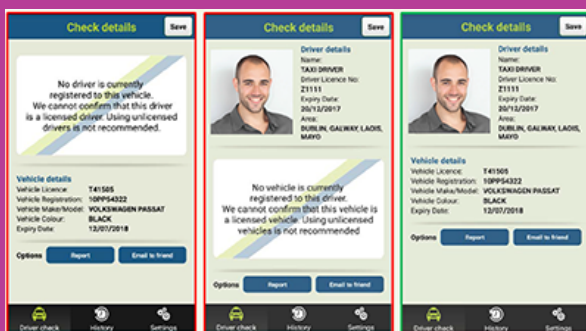
SUBMIT YOUR DRIVER LICENCE RENEWAL 3 MONTHS AHEAD

NTA has been in contact with An Garda Síochána following an upward trend in calls to the Industry Information Line about SPSV Driver Licence renewal turnaround times. An Garda Síochána has advised that it is currently experiencing a particularly large volume of both applications and renewals throughout the country but principally in the Dublin Carriage Office. This, together with the enhanced vetting procedures now in operation, is leading to delays. It is crucial that drivers commence the renewal process three months prior to the expiry date on their SPSV Driver Licence and ID Cards. Please take a moment to check yours!

If your renewal form is not received by An Garda Síochána between three months and a full six weeks before your licence expiry date, you will not be permitted to provide SPSV services if your renewal is delayed. You will be prosecuted for unlicensed operation.

RENTAL AGREEMENTS

For all rental agreements, the vehicle licence holder is required to notify NTA of the vehicle rental, either using [SPSV Online Services](#) or by calling the SPSV Industry Information Line – 0761 064 000. The vehicle licence holder must insure the licenced vehicle and provide NTA with the renters SPSV driver licence number, the vehicle licence number and the vehicle registration number. In all cases, the driver operating the rental vehicle is obliged to notify NTA every time they change the vehicle they intend to operate, i.e. link to every vehicle every time they start a shift.



To link you can use the:

- [free SPSV Online Services](#)
- free SPSV Industry App (usual App Stores)
- text service - 51444
- Industry Information Line - 0761 064 000

[Click here](#) for more information on how to register and use these tools.

THINK ABOUT YOUR LINK

The Driver Check App is an invaluable safety feature provided for passengers. Drivers are required to ensure whenever operating that they are linked to the taxi, hackney or limousine they are driving by notifying NTA. The link will break if you change the vehicle being operated or if your SPSV Driver or Vehicle licence expires at any stage during the renewal process.



COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

NTA continues to focus on education, deterrence and enforcement measures to maintain high levels of compliance by SPSV operators with the regulatory framework. During 2017, NTA's

compliance team comprised 24 authorised officers who could engage in compliance activities across the country.

Mobile Checks, Face to Face Audits and Fixed Payment Notices

Over 150,000 mobile checks were undertaken throughout 2017, representing 19,156 individual vehicles, or over 93% of licensed vehicles. In the vast majority of cases, compliance was good and the operators did not even realise they were being checked. However, Compliance Officers undertook nearly 11,000 face to face audits at the roadside following these checks and 1,512 fines were issued for a variety of offences.

SPSV Checks, Audits and Fixed Payment Notices 2015 - 2017

Year	No. of checks	No. of roadside audits	Fixed Payment Notices
2015	29,123	11,765	692
2016	90,243	12,012	1,099
2017	151,561	10,959	1,512

In 2017, 150 court cases brought were by way of direct prosecution for a breach of the legislation outside of the on the spot fines regime, following specific operations and detection by Compliance Officers. 112 further cases were brought to court for the non-payment of Fixed Payment Notices. More than 95% of the 262 cases presented by NTA nationwide were successful.

Prosecutions by Offence Category 2017

Category	Number	%	
Unlicensed SPSV Operation	No current SPSV driver licence	54	20.6
	No current SPSV vehicle licence	28	10.7
	No current SPSV driver and vehicle licence	30	11.5
	Allowing an unlicensed driver/vehicle to operate	10	3.8
Dispatch Operator	3	1.1	
Failure to take the shortest route	1	0.4	
Driver behaviour	6	2.3	
Obstructing an Authorised Person	1	0.4	
Unlawful use of signage/identification on an unlicensed vehicle	15	5.7	
Advertising an unlicensed SPSV vehicle/service	2	0.8	
Direct Prosecutions	150	57.3	
Failure to pay Fixed Payment Penalty	112	42.7	
TOTAL CASES	262	100	



WHEELCHAIRS GET PRIORITY

Regulation 37 of the Taxi Regulation (SPSV) Regulations 2015 is clear that WAV drivers must give priority to passengers with disabilities, including passengers who wish to travel in wheelchairs. Where this is not done a fine of €80 will issue or the driver will be prosecuted directly by NTA in the District Court for up to €2,500 per offence.

This also means that WAVs must be ready to take passengers who wish to travel in wheelchairs at all times when operating. One of our team recently found three drivers operating with a full size spare wheel occupying the wheelchair space in their vehicles. This is prohibited; a tyre sealant kit or a side mounted space saver spare wheel are the correct solutions here and are supplied with the vehicles. NTA fined these drivers for failing to comply with WAV standards.

SPSV GRANTS

Both WAV18 and eSPSV18 opened on 01 February and we have received 507 grant applications so far and offered 313 grants already. Please visit our website to find further information and application forms.

PASSENGER INFORMATION CARDS & STICKERS

As credit and debit card surcharges were banned across Europe for personal consumers in January, there has been an update to the Passenger Information Cards to be carried in each vehicle. These are in print and will shortly be replaced in each vehicle at inspection.

CONGRATULATIONS!

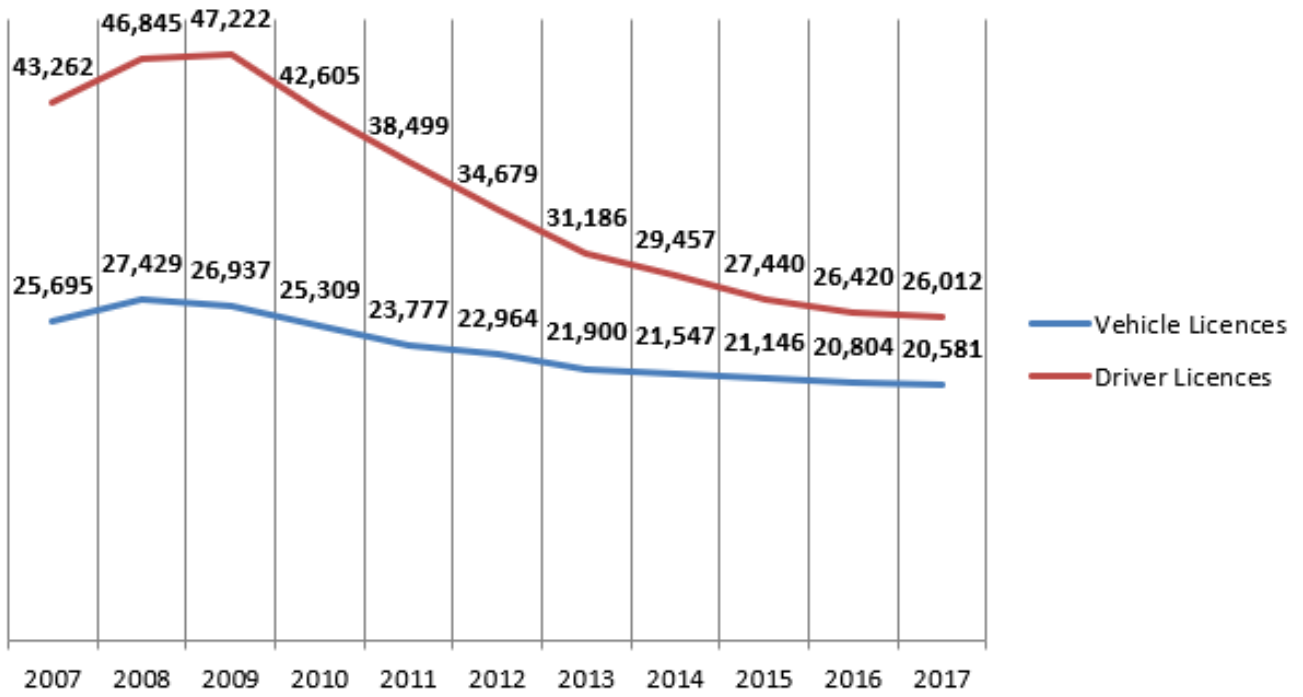
These drivers have received commendations from their passengers:

K4756 – Innocent E Agbai
E6567 - Michael Byrne
F6964 - Derek Collins
L6767 - Imran Khan
F8377 – Donal Byrne

PERSONAL CONSUMER CARD SURCHARGES BANNED

The new EU law commenced last January bans surcharges on personal Visa and MasterCard credit and debit card payments. An SPSV service provider cannot charge extra for accepting a personal consumer card. Very few vehicles in Ireland have facilities to accept anything other than Visa and MasterCard. Diners Club and American Express cards are not covered by EU rules will still be able to attract surcharges; however, the surcharge must not exceed the direct costs borne by the service provider to accept the card. The same goes for commercial credit cards.

CHANGES IN SPSV DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENCES 2007 - 2017



For further information on any matter relating to SPSVs please contact

0761 064 000
 taxis@nationaltransport.ie
 www.nationaltransport.ie

National Transport Authority
 Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2
 D02 WT20

© 2018 National Transport Authority