

KEEP YOUR VEHICLE LICENCE ALIVE



Vehicle transfers are prohibited but you can rent your insured, licenced vehicle out when you retire or you can reassign your vehicle licence to another person or a company to operate after your death. This is a free service which only requires the submission of one short form.

How to nominate a person to own your current SPSV Licence after your death

- Complete the short form handed to you at your vehicle inspection (“Application to Nominate a Person in the Event of a Death of a Licence Holder”);
- Download the same form from our website at any time;
or
- Call the Industry Information Line (0761 064 000) to have the form sent to you by post.
- Return it to NTA, PO Box 436, City North Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway.
- This is a free process and can be repeated if you change your mind.

You will receive written confirmation from NTA within two weeks that your file has been updated. Store this confirmation with your other important documents and rest assured that you have taken care of the future.

After your death, the nominee registered on our system has 9 months to take up the licence, once that licence has not expired by more than one year. That nominee may wish to hire the licenced, insured vehicle to a licenced SPSV driver or drive it themselves as a licenced SPSV driver.

The service is free and easy. You can change the person or company you have nominated as many times as you wish – maybe a child reaches 18 or other circumstances change – just complete another nomination form and submit it to NTA. This will automatically delete a previous nominee. NTA will not contact any person you nominate.

SWITCH TO EMAIL



Email correspondence is the fastest way to receive your SPSV notifications. Licence renewal reminder letters and booking appointments can be sent via email, as well as full details of your linking status.

Opting for email means that if your link is broken for any reason (changing your vehicle, your licence expiring) you will receive an email notifying you of the break or any other change you make. This can help you avoid a €40 fine or a court case risking a conviction and very heavy fines.

Call the Industry Information Line on **0761 064 000** to update your preference for email.

FORGOTTEN YOUR SPSV ONLINE SERVICE PASSWORD?

Log in to <https://spsvonline.nationaltransport.ie> and click ‘Forgot My Password’. This will automatically send you a link to renew your password and access your account.

IS YOUR PERSONAL DATA UP TO DATE?

Make sure you stay up to date by checking NTA has your correct contact details. Call the Industry Information Line on **0761 064 000** to check your details.

COURTS IMPOSE HEAVY FINES AND DRIVING DISQUALIFICATIONS



At two separate court hearings, where the NTA prosecuted individuals for operating without valid SPSV licences, the courts handed down driving disqualifications for 12 months and 24 months. In addition to this, fines totalling €6,600 were imposed along with costs totalling €2,000. In both cases, NTA were assisted by members of An Garda Síochána.

At another court hearing, following the failure to pay two Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) of €40 and €60, the court imposed €2,000 in fines and another €400 in costs. The FPNs had been issued for the driver 'failing to notify NTA of vehicle being operated' (Driver to Vehicle link) and for a 'failure to comply with vehicle standards (Good and clean condition).

- Creating a Driver to Vehicle Link is extremely easy to do online, by app, by text or by

telephone. If detected operating without an active Driver to Vehicle link a Fixed Payment Notice for €40 will be issued.

- Maintaining a vehicle in 'good and clean condition' is a legal requirement and attracts a Fixed Payment Notice of €60 when a vehicle is found to be in poor condition. As summer months approach and tourists arrive to Ireland, everyone is encouraged to maintain high standards of vehicle cleanliness.

For any Fixed Payment Notice, which is not paid within 28 days, increases by 50% of the original amount. If the increased penalty is not paid within another 28 days, the driver is prosecuted in the District Court.

COMPLIANCE



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. This team consisted of 9 employees of NTA and 15 authorised officers employed under an external outsourcing contract.

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

Since July 2015, Compliance Officers have been able to undertake real-time mobile checks of SPSVs observed operating. This bespoke tool has enabled Compliance Officers to check each SPSV remotely,

including the status of both driver and vehicle licence in real time, and then focus comprehensive face to face audits on vehicles and drivers where potential compliance issues are identified. This system has resulted in a marked increase of authentications of SPSVs observed operating with a minimum of disruption to compliant operators and their passengers.

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. 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. In 2017, Compliance Officers opted to undertake a full audit in approximately 7% of mobile checks and, arising from these audits, detected offences which warranted the issuing of a fine in just under 14% of cases.

Fines issued by NTA have 82% payment conformity; the remainder proceed to court prosecution. The highest volume of fines issued (approximately 47%) related to drivers “failing to notify details of the vehicle being operated”. This offence arises in connection with the legal requirement for a licenced driver to register the licenced vehicle being driven with the central database system managed by NTA. This database supports the Driver Check App, which allows passengers or intending passengers to assess the licenced status of their chosen vehicle and driver and to email a chosen third party with those details.

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. Of those, 54 cases involved the offence of not holding a valid SPSV driver’s licence, 28 cases of not holding a valid SPSV vehicle licence and 30 cases where the offender held neither a valid SPSV driver or vehicle licence. 10 cases were prosecuted for a licence holder or booking service allowing an unlicensed driver or vehicle to operate. In addition, 28 cases were prosecuted for other breaches of regulations and 112 further cases were brought 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

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

COMPLIANCE FOCUS - JUNE



Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) have doubled in our fleet since 2014 and we are on track to reach 10% of the fleet by 2020.

A compliance focus will commence in June to ensure that all WAV operators are appropriately prioritising and servicing those in need of these specialised vehicles above all other fares. The T&Cs of the WAV Grants as well as the Taxi Regulation Acts 2013 and 2016 are very clear about providing specialised services to those who need them most.

A huge thank you to the vast majority of great operators who are providing an excellent WAV service! However, NTA has already ensured a number of grants have been repaid where our Compliance Team discovers this not to be the case and will prosecute all those who we believe are offending in this manner.

RENTAL COMPANY - AUDITS

Remember all rentals must be notified to NTA by law. We must be told the length of the rental or lease and the parties to the agreement. The Compliance Teams are auditing nationwide so don't be caught out on such an easy error which is a "substantial breach of regulations" and attracts a €5,000 fine for each contravention.

ON-GOING TAX CLEARANCE

The holder of an SPSV driver or vehicle licence must be tax cleared with Revenue at all times. NTA checks all licence holder's tax clearance at least once a month. If the licence holder is not tax cleared, an advisory letter is issued automatically giving 30 days to rectify the situation. After 30 days, tax status will be checked again. If the licence holder is still not tax compliant, a notification letter advising that the case is to be pursued by our Compliance Team will issue. A licence holder may not operate a SPSV unless tax cleared and will be prosecuted for breaching this law.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)



The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will replace current data protection laws in the European Union from 25th May 2018.

Personal data is any information that can identify an individual person. The GDPR is based on the core principles of data protection which exist under the current law. These principles require us to:

- collect no more data than is necessary for the purpose for which it will be used;
- obtain data fairly by giving notice of the collection and its specific purpose;
- retain data for no longer than is necessary;
- to keep data safe and secure; and
- provide a copy of your personal data if you request it.

Under the GDPR you have the right to:

- obtain details about how your data is processed by NTA;

- obtain copies of personal data that an organisation holds on you;
- have incorrect or incomplete data corrected;
- have your data erased, where, for example, NTA has no reason to retain it;
- obtain your data from an organisation and have it transmitted to another organisation;
- object to the processing of your data by NTA in certain circumstances;
- not to be subject to (with some exceptions) automated decision making, including profiling.

The new regulation will not create any real changes for your interaction with NTA and you do not have to do anything. However, we are updating our internal systems and may contact you in relation to that. There is some very good information on www.dataprotection.ie the website of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner if you wish to read further.

ARE YOU AND YOUR VEHICLE SUMMER READY?



2017 was a record year for Irish tourism with more people than ever before visiting the country and with Dublin being listed as one of the best places to visit in 2018 by National Geographic Travel, be prepared to greet more visitors.

- Make sure that both SPSV Drivers Licence and Vehicle Licence are valid when operating,
- Maintain a clean vehicle,
- Always print and offer a receipt in a taxi,
- Always make a receipt available in a hackney or a limousine,
- If you regularly change vehicles over the summer months, remember to create a driver to vehicle link every time.



VEHICLE REVIEWS

Do not buy a vehicle that is not specifically listed on our website guides as there is absolutely no guarantee that it will be licensed. Please also be very sure that the windows of your proposed vehicle are not tinted before committing to a purchase. The technical measurement and review process for a new vehicle can take at least 5 working days. Please send a review request, with full details, including exterior and interior photographs, of any a vehicle that urgently needs verifying for acceptance to taxis@nationaltransport.ie.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REDUCES SPSV FUEL COSTS BY 35% IN DONEGAL PILOT



In 2017, Local Link Donegal (transport coordinator for the HSE) made a conscious decision to review all methods of transport being used throughout the organisation and establish a cleaner transport strategy. As part of this review, Local Link teamed up with a number of partners including Toyota, Nissan, NTA, SEAI, and the Department of Transport with the objective of benchmarking clean and innovative transport solutions for the future.

A pilot program, launched in February 2018, saw 5 Plug-in Hybrid and Hybrid vehicles supplied to Donegal drivers to test. The aim was to establish what advantages they may have when compared to traditional diesel vehicles, in terms of fuel efficiency and emissions reduction. To make the program as “real world” as possible, the vehicles were tested in some of Ireland’s most challenging conditions, driven by five SPSV drivers serving Letterkenny University Hospital, Donegal.

During the test period the vehicles completed a combined distance in excess of 50,000kms in varying driving conditions including ice, snow, rain

and extreme cold. They travelled both long and short journeys on all road types, from national motorways to mountainous country lanes and everything in between.

Data collected during the pilot demonstrated a 22% reduction in Co2 emissions and an impressive 35% reduction in fuel costs when compared with the drivers own diesel vehicles.

NTA has been informed that....

TOYOTA IRELAND WILL DOUBLE SPSV PHEV SUPPORT TO €7,000 UNTIL JULY

“To mark these positive findings, Toyota will match the Department of Transport’s eSPSV grant of €3,500 for plug-in SPSVs with a further €3,500 discount off all Prius Plug-in vehicles registered before 31st July 2018. This discount applies to new cars supplied by Toyota Ireland and registered as a SPSV only. Please contact your local Toyota dealer for more information”