

SAFETY AND PASSENGER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



All SPSVs are required to carry the following safety and passenger communication equipment at all times:

1. A fire extinguisher of at least 2kg capacity of dry powder (or equivalent) (EN3 standard).
2. First Aid Kit (DIN13164 standard or equivalent).
3. A high visibility reflective safety vest (EN471 standard).
4. A reflective advance warning triangle (ECE Reg.27 standard).
5. Hand-held torch.
6. Pen and paper to assist with communication.

All safety equipment must be in-date and complete.



CHECK YOUR HEADLIGHTS

Vehicle operators are reminded to regularly check the operation of vehicle headlights, particularly with autumn approaching and daylight hours decreasing.



IN-VEHICLE INFORMATION

You must display the appropriate In-Vehicle Information Card, which provides passengers with useful information about their rights and responsibilities.

In-Vehicle Information Cards are available from all inspection centres.

S15N FORM UPDATE



The S15N form (“Application to Nominate a Person in the Event of a Death of a Licence Holder”) has been updated to make it easier for licence holders to complete and submit. The nominee’s signature is no longer required and forms completed at our inspection centres will be returned to us by our inspection teams on your behalf. Alternatively, the form can be found on the taxi section of our website and should be posted to our offices NTA, PO Box 436, City North Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway. NTA will not contact any person you nominate.

Q. CAN I BOOK AN INSPECTION STRAIGHT AFTER I PASS MY NCT?



A. No. Once you pass your NCT inspection it takes at least two working days for the formal confirmation to be sent to our system. We cannot book you in for an inspection until our system has received that confirmation. Your NCT cannot be any older than 90 days on the day of inspection.



COMPLIANCE DETECTION

In April, Compliance Officers, assisted by Gardaí, detected and apprehended three individuals operating unlicensed SPSV services which had been targeted at employees of a single, large company.

Garda assistance enabled the NTA to engage with the operators, who offered their services through a foreign language.

All three will be prosecuted by the NTA.

COURT



Cross border detection

In court in July, the NTA secured a conviction against an unlicensed operator who had been detected working in the Republic of Ireland although the vehicle was only licensed in Northern Ireland. The court handed down a fine of €3,000.

Disqualified from driving

In April, an illegal operator was convicted after having been detected on two occasions and was given fines and costs by the Court totalling €2,200. In addition, with the assistance of the Gardaí a conviction was secured for 'no insurance' and the Court disqualified the individual from all driving for a period of two years.

In June, a prosecution for operating without a valid SPSV licence resulted in a conviction and fines/costs totalling €700 and a disqualification from all driving for a period of one year.

Q. CAN I RENT MY VEHICLE TO SOMEONE?



A. Yes. 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 licensed vehicle and provide NTA with the renter's SPSV driver licence number, the vehicle licence number and the vehicle registration number. The licence holder must also ensure that the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter and meets the requirements in relation to vehicle standards. In all cases, the driver operating the rental vehicle is obliged to notify NTA every time they change the vehicle they intend to operate.

THINK, LINK, DRIVE



Before you operate your SPSV, make sure you have created your driver to vehicle link. This can be done in any of the following ways:

- Log into SPSV online services on your laptop or PC;
- Use the smartphone app which can be downloaded from the App store (iPhone) or the Play Store (Android);
- Register for SMS services and you can text your links to 51444; or
- Call 0761 064000 and an agent will create your link for you.

You can create future links up to seven days in advance. If you are the sole operator, you can create an open ended link. This link will only break if someone else links to your vehicle, if either of your licences expire or if you change your vehicle.

Passengers and intending passengers can check if you are linked via the Driver Check App. If there is no active link there is an option to report it. If you are detected operating without a valid driver to vehicle link, you could face a €40 on the spot fine or a court case risking conviction and heavy fines.

If you are unsure if your link is still active, put your own licence or registration number into the Driver Check App and check the details shown.



LOST PROPERTY

Any property left in your vehicle by a passenger should be delivered to the local Garda Station as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the drivers who have gone out of their way to reunite passengers with their forgotten property.

There are five designated stations within Dublin for lost property:

Finglas:	016667500
Irishtown:	016669600
Shankill:	016665900
Store Street:	016668000
Tallaght:	016666000

Outside of Dublin, any lost property should be taken to the nearest Garda station.



ELECTRIC (SPSV) GRANT SCHEME 2018, ESPSV18

The eSPSV grant scheme commenced on 01 February 2018 and has received a lot of interest to date.

The scheme is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and administered by NTA as the licensing authority for SPSVs.

Applications are considered on a first received basis, subject to an application being satisfactorily completed, until funding (€500,000) is expended. The closing date is 30 November 2018. To date we have received 104 applications and 22 grant assisted vehicles have entered the fleet.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME 2018 (WAV18)



The WAV Grant Scheme 2018 commenced on 01 February 2018. There has been a huge interest in this scheme so far. As of 14 August, we have received 1175 applications, which has seen 460 grant assisted vehicles enter the fleet so far this year. The last date for receipt by the NTA of applications for the WAV18 Grant Scheme is **31 October 2018**, or whenever the funding is expended, whichever is earlier. Applications will be considered on a first received basis.

All holders of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle licences are reminded that they are legally obliged to give priority to bookings in respect of persons with disabilities. The NTA compliance team will investigate all complaints made in relation to Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles. In addition, Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle operators are required to carry a user manual detailing the correct use of the vehicle's wheelchair related equipment.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

From a peak of 1,600 wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) in 2008, the number of accessible hackneys and taxis reduced by 47% to 850 at the end of June 2014. That trend was reversed with 1,555 WAVs in the fleet by the end of 2017 on foot of two major NTA initiatives. In April 2014, the regulations relating to the size specifications for WAVs were revised, which meant that operators could purchase smaller wheelchair accessible vehicles than heretofore. In July 2014, a grant scheme was commenced which assisted licence holders in the purchase of wheelchair accessible vehicles in each year 2014 to 2017. Each grant brought either a new vehicle licence into the fleet or enabled replacement of an older licensed vehicle to enhance the quality and safety of the fleet. The vehicles replaced were an average of eight years younger than those on the licence already. Overall, WAVs constitute approximately 9.6% of the SPSV fleet. NTA remains focused on increasing this percentage to 10% by 2020.

Grant assisted Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles 2014 - 2017

Year	Grants	Capital	New WAV to Fleet	Replacement of WAV within Fleet
2014	128	€819,000	92	36
2015	153	€871,000	134	19
2016	335	€1,987,500	284	51
2017	284	€1,747,500	233	51

COMMENDATIONS RECEIVED

July

Date Issued	Licence Holder Name	Licence Number
02.07.2018	Gerard Dempsey	G6351
05.07.2018	Gagandeep Singh	M0024
05.07.2018	Paul Ellard	K7647
09.07.2018	Conor Phillips	L9162
12.07.2018	Matthew Kelch	J5044