

NATIONAL MAXIMUM TAXI FARE REVIEW 2019

A National Maximum Taxi Fare Review is carried out approximately every two years by NTA to assess any changes in annual taxi operating costs and the market facing the taxi industry.

Taxis and wheelchair-accessible taxis (WATs) make up 83 per cent of the total SPSV fleet. There were 17,357 taxis in the fleet at the end of July 2019. The 2017 Fare Review found that costs had increased between 2014 and 2016, and permitted a maximum fares increase of approximately 3% from February 2018.

The objectives of the 2019 Fare Review are to:

- Estimate the average activity level of taxis in a year based on survey data directly from taxi drivers and data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO);

- Update each element of the Taxi Cost Index (TCI), including the fixed and running costs of an average taxi and labour costs; and
- Determine whether maximum fares should increase, decrease or remain at current levels

The Maximum Fare Review

report is expected to be completed and published on our website shortly. A public consultation will be advertised inviting the views of the public and taxi operators. A full assessment of this consultation will be completed, together with obtaining the opinions of The Advisory Committee on SPSVs and the Legal Metrology Service. A report on the review and consultation will then be published, with recommendations brought to the NTA Board in late 2019. If any changes are to be made, it will be in Spring 2020 at the earliest.



SPSV VEHICLE LICENCE EXPIRED?

Within 21 days of being notified that the licence has expired you must, under section 17 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013:

- Return to the NTA the licence and tamper proof disc associated to this licence AND provide written confirmation to the NTA that any sign or disc affixed to the vehicle in accordance with SPSV regulations has been removed from the vehicle.
- Where the licence is a taxi, cease to display taxi signage on the vehicle immediately upon receipt of the notification.

- Failure to comply with these requirements is an offence and you may be liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to €2,500.



ELECTRIC SPSV GRANT

The eSPSV grant scheme offers funding for both Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs). The level of funding is dependent on vehicle age and power source. The maximum level of funding for Electric Vehicles is €7,000 and for PHEVs, €3,500. For further details visit our website or call the SPSV information line.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SURVEY RESULTS

In a recent survey of operators of Electric Vehicles within the SPSV fleet, all licence holders surveyed reported significantly cheaper running costs compared with petrol, diesel and hybrid vehicles.



73% of the licence holders surveyed reported insurance costing the same amount or less than their previous vehicle.

There are currently almost 1,100 public charge points available nationwide which can be used for charging while operating. There is also grant funding of €600 towards the installation of a home charger unit which is administered by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

CHANGE YOUR VEHICLE WITHOUT SURPRISES



Before you buy:

Visit the Forms and Guides section of our website. It has all the information you need:

- ✓ Information Guide G6: Changing your vehicle
- ✓ Suitable vehicle list and Guidance for Limousine Vehicle choice
- ✓ Initial Suitability Inspection manual
- ✓ List of authorised branding suppliers
- ✓ Guidelines for Technical Assessors Full reports and Templates

Check the exact age of the vehicle, calculated from the date it was first registered. How long will you be able to keep it on your licence? The vehicle does not have to be new, just suitable.

Consider the best date for you to make the change. What is your current licence expiry

date and the final operation date of your current vehicle?

Check that the side and front windows of the intended vehicle are clear (taxi/hackney)

Get insurance quotes for the intended vehicle

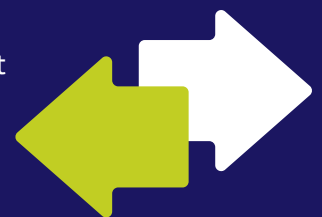
Remember to include time to:

- ✓ complete NCT (plus 2 working days for certificate to appear on the NTA system);
- ✓ get the taxi door branding applied; and
- ✓ swap over the taximeter and get it calibrated by Legal Metrology Services.

Finally book your suitability inspection via the SPSV information line – 0761 064 000. Don't forget to take the old tamper proof discs with you and to bring the original insurance certificate.

ARE YOU TRANSFERRING YOUR TAXIMETER TO YOUR NEW VEHICLE?

If you are planning to change your vehicle please remember if a taximeter has been transferred from one vehicle to another it must be re-verified before operating. You may be fined or prosecuted if found to be operating with a taximeter that has not been verified by the Legal Metrology Services (LMS).



TAXIMETERS



When attending an inspection, make sure your meter is in good order and condition. To pass inspection, ensure your meter is fitted so that

- a passenger can easily see and read it
- it is securely attached and cannot become inaccurate by the vibration of the engine or the motion of the vehicle
- the transmitter cable connecting the taximeter with the wheels/ driving mechanism is protected by an outer cover to avoid damage
- calibrated in accordance with the maximum fares order made by NTA
- fitted with a device capable of printing a receipt, and
- fitted with the official verification mark/seals signifying conformity with the Metrology Act 1996 (Not for Initial Suitability Inspection)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q. What are the rules surrounding window-tint?

A. No SPSV, with the exception of limousines, may have window-tint in excess of 30% on windows which are adjacent to passenger seating. If you are unsure you can contact our SPSV Information Line for more details, or speak with your car dealership or mechanic.

Q. What vehicles are acceptable to be licenced as a limousine?

A. All vehicles for limousine use must be approved by our Technical Team before a booking can be made. Please refer to our Guidance List for Limousine Vehicle Choice which can be found on the forms and guides section of our website. This is a guidance list only. Some vehicles which are not detailed on the list may also be acceptable.

If you wish to query a particular vehicle you will need to contact us and provide the Irish registration number of the vehicle.

Please remember a limousine vehicle is required to be, amongst other things,

evidently suited by reason of its style and condition for the provision of hire services for ceremonial occasions, or for corporate or other prestige purposes.

Q. Both my vehicle licence and SPSV drivers licence is due to expire. I don't want to renew them yet so how long can I leave them for?

A. Please note that once a licence has entered an expired status late renewal fees will apply. **You must renew your licence within 12 months of the date of expiry.** If it is not renewed within this 12-month period you will no longer be able to renew it.

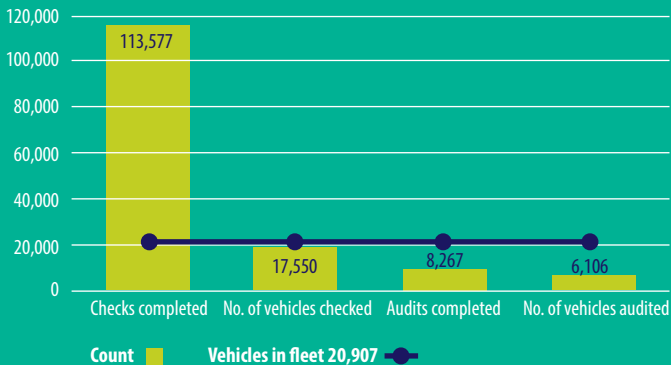


COMPLIANCE OVERALL STATS YEAR TO DATE



NTA Compliance Officers are able to undertake real-time, mobile checks of any SPSVs operating using a bespoke App. Based upon these checks officers can then undertake a more comprehensive inspection of the vehicle (“audit”).

Audits and Checks completed
01 January to 31 July 2019



FPNs issued 01 January to 31 July 2019

Number of FPNs issued 947

Top 5 reasons FPN issued

Failure to link	30%
Failure to comply with vehicle standards	15%
Failure to comply with roof sign requirements	12%
Failure to comply with meter requirements	10%
Failure to offer a receipt after taxi journey	10%

COMPLIANCE OPERATIONS



NTA continues to work with colleagues within An Garda Síochána to investigate, detect and prosecute illegal SPSV operators.

In July, following a complaint to the NTA, information was passed to An Garda Síochána. Within 24hrs of details being placed on the Gardaí's Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system, the vehicle was stopped, seized and a file will now be forwarded for prosecution.

NTA compliance officers continue to assist Gardaí with

large events, such as the recent Galway Races and Electric Picnic, along with regular checkpoints with Garda units across the country.

Recently, another joint, covert operation detected an operator offering services to and from Dublin Airport without any SPSV licence.

This type of operation takes many days to set up as the opportunity to obtain sufficient evidence may only happen once.

