

GO GREEN!



There has never been a better time to make the switch to an electric vehicle and support the transition towards greening the SPSV fleet.

Dedicated fast chargers for electric SPSVs will be installed in 2020. There will also be an increased purchase grant meaning electric SPSVs will be eligible to avail of greater levels of funding in addition to reduced tolls and a wider range of vehicles to choose from.

Increased Purchase Grants for Electric SPSVs

A new grant scheme to support vehicle licence holders who wish to operate an electric SPSV opens on 01 January 2020. Application forms for the 2020 scheme will be available on the NTA website from this date.

The maximum levels of grant payable by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in the 2020 scheme are outlined below. Note that grants will not be available for vehicles older than 4 years – in order to maximise the efficiencies within the fleet.

Battery Electric vehicles

- *New Battery Electric Vehicle: €10,000

Plug in Hybrid electric vehicles

- *New Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle: €5,000

Wheelchair Accessible battery electric vehicles

- *New Battery Electric Vehicle: €12,500

*Vehicles considered to be 'new' must be less than 3 months old from the date of first registration and must also have less than 3,000 Km on the odometer at the time of passing the initial suitability inspection.

Further grant funding may also be available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. If you are interested in purchasing an electric vehicle remember to visit the SEAI website for more information.



Dedicated Fast Chargers for SPSV Sector

In the recent Budget, Minister Ross secured €1.5m to support the installation of dedicated fast chargers (50kW) for the SPSV sector in 2020. The location of the chargers is still being determined but it is likely they will be situated at public transport hubs such as airports and major bus and train stations, starting with Heuston Station where two chargers will be installed early next year.

The fast chargers should enable vehicles to achieve an 80% charge from zero in approximately 30 minutes (model dependent).

Reduced Tolls for Electric SPSVs



From January electric SPSVs will be eligible to avail of greater levels of reduced tolls – increasing the maximum refund from €500 to €1000 per year.

To avail of this incentive scheme you will need to visit [e-flow](#) to register.

IDLING WASTES FUEL AND HARMS THE ENVIRONMENT

Inspire a greener, cleaner environment! When the engine is idling you're wasting fuel and adding to CO2 emissions.

If you're likely to be at a standstill for more than 30 seconds or so, switch off the engine. Many new cars are now fitted with a feature that does this for you automatically.

Remember to turn off your engine when standing for hire to both save fuel and reduce air pollution.

WINTER DRIVING

The Road Safety Authority have a detailed list of 'Top Tips for Winter Driving' available on their website which can be viewed by [clicking here](#). With inevitable cold weather ahead we have listed a sample of the top tips below and would encourage all drivers to review the complete list to ensure a safe winter for all.



- Check your tyres are in good condition
- Use your lights including dipped lights during the day
- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead
- Beware of "Black Ice"
- Keep up to date with local weather and traffic alerts

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE EVERY INSPECTION!

Winter roads bring mud and dirt, but don't let this lead to a fail at your next renewal, or to a €60 fine. Vehicles in dirty or poor condition is one of the main reasons for failure at licence renewal inspection, so please ensure that your vehicle is clean and that all windows and doors are fully operational before they are presented for inspection.

Fail rates for suitability inspections remains high. 14% of licence holders failed their licence renewal assessment in October, incurring extra costs and time.

Most fails can be avoided by taking the time to check over your vehicle and equipment in advance of inspection and allowing time for any necessary repairs/replacements.

NTA has a 'Passing the Inspection Checklist' which can be found on the forms and guides section of the NTA website.

Top 5 fails are listed below – 67% of fails fall in to these 5 categories

Cleanliness, Doors and Window Operation

Insurance Certificate Check

Taximeter

First Aid Kit

Non-return of Tamper Proof Discs

NATIONAL MAXIMUM FARE REVIEW UPDATE



The National Maximum Fare Review public consultation ended on Tuesday 29th of October.

Submissions were received from industry members, consumers and various representative groups. All submissions will be taken under consideration before a decision on the National Maximum Fare is reached. If an amendment to the fare is decided it will not be implemented until mid-2020.

Further information will be made available on the latest news section of our website in the coming weeks.

CYCLISTS – A LITTLE BIT OF SPACE FOR A LOT MORE SAFE!

A recent law has been introduced which could result in motorists being issued with fines of up to €120 and a minimum of three penalty points.

When overtaking a cyclist ensure to give 1 metre clearance in areas 50km/h and under and 1.5 metres in areas over 50km/h.



GIVING THE CORRECT CHANGE:

With the festive season approaching it is important to remember when a customer pays the fare, you must give them the complete change due to them, even if it is a relatively insignificant amount. Ensure that you have sufficient change available throughout your shift.

COMPLIANCE JOINT OPERATIONS



GUIDE DOGS:

A guide dog or assistance dog may accompany their owner free of charge. It is a legal **OBLIGATION** to accept a passenger with a guide dog or an assistance dog. Allow the owner to direct the dog themselves.



All guide dogs wear a harness that indicates the type of guide dog they are: guide dogs for the blind have a white and yellow reflective strip (older harnesses may have an orange reflective strip); assistance dogs (for families of children with autism) have a blue harness.

Remember, guide dog owners and assistance dog owners will often carry an ID card giving their name and the name of their dog.

SIGNAGE REMOVAL

Each week reports are submitted through the Driver Check App of expired licences. In many cases it is found that the vehicles are not being operated but have been reported as they still retain official SPSV signage on display. Please remember that if the SPSV vehicle licence has expired and there is **NO** renewal application made, all signage must be removed and delivered to the NTA (It is an offence not to do so under section 17 Taxi Regulation Act 2013)



PARTY SEASON



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 lost property.

THERE ARE FIVE DESIGNATED STATIONS WITHIN DUBLIN FOR LOST PROPERTY:

Finglas: 01 6667500

Irishtown: 01 6669600

Shankill: 01 6665900

Store St: 01 6668000

Tallaght: 01 6666000

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



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE REGISTER – ARE YOUR BOOKING DETAILS UP TO DATE?

It is a condition of wheelchair accessible vehicle licences that the contact details of such licences are held on the NTA's register to enable intending passengers to engage their services. This register is currently provided to passengers upon request.

In the coming months a new facility will allow intending passengers to easily download the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Register from the Transport for Ireland website.

If you believe the booking details held on file may be outdated, NTA requests that you update the register by contacting our Information Line on 0761 064 000

The following details must be provided:

- Contact details for bookings (phone, email or website)
- Associated dispatch operator
- Area of operation
- Occupancy of vehicle when carrying a passenger in a wheelchair



WITH PARTY SEASON IN FULL SWING, DRIVERS ARE REMINDED;

- Take extra care when driving through streets busy with pedestrians;
- By law, a taxi receipt must be printed and offered to the passenger every time, even if booked by an app; and
- Never carry more passengers than the vehicle is licensed to carry. If prosecuted and convicted this offence can attract a fine of up to €5,000.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS



The SPSV Information Line and Inspection Centres will be operating on reduced hours over the Christmas period. Both will be closed on Christmas Day, Stephen's Day and New Year's Day.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe Christmas from the National Transport Authority

