

### NATIONAL MAXIMUM TAXI FARE

#### FARE INCREASE

On 17 June last the NTA Board approved the increase to the National Maximum Taxi Fare. The average increase of 12% is weighted towards short trips (under 15 kilometres) and during premium times to incentivise drivers to operate at times when demand is at its peak.



#### SPSV LATEST NEWS FOR TAXIMETER PROGRAM APPROVALS

The Taximeter Program Update list available on [Latest News for SPSV Operators](#) shows which taximeters can now be programmed with the 2022 fare in advance of the commencement of the National Maximum Fare Order on 1st September. Pre-programming the taximeter ensures a seamless transition to the new Fare without any loss of trade for operators. This list will be frequently updated as more programs are approved.

#### TAXIMETER VERIFICATION BOOKING

Once the 2022 program is installed in the taximeter, verification is completed by NSAI Legal Metrology through its Authorised Verifier, Applus. Verification bookings can be made at [www.legalmetrology.ie](http://www.legalmetrology.ie)

#### TAXIMETER MUST BE SEALED FOR LICENCE RENEWAL SUITABILITY INSPECTIONS

Taximeters must be verified and sealed with the official verification marks signifying conformity with the applicable legislation (Metrology Act 1996).

The only exception being at Late Renewal where it is not possible for LMS to verify a meter in a (unlicensed) vehicle where the licence has expired.



## GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CASHLESS PAYMENTS IN TAXIS

On 17 June last, the NTA Board approved the [Small Public Service Vehicle \(Cashless Payment Facility\) Regulations](#) in addition to the increase of the National Maximum Taxi Fare by 12% weighted across popular journeys and the Premium and Standard Rates.

The revised fare includes a 1% increase for the costs associated with providing a Cashless Payment Facility. The cashless payment facility regulations make it mandatory for all taxis to have an in-taxi point of sale cashless payment terminal and for cashless payments to be accepted for taxi journeys when requested by customers.

Both take effect on **1 September 2022**.

The Guidelines for the Acceptance of Cashless Payments in Taxis were approved by the Advisory Committee on SPSVs and can be found on the [Forms & Guides](#) section of NTA's website.

## IN-VEHICLE CUSTOMER INFORMATION

### UPDATED IN-VEHICLE CUSTOMER INFORMATION CARD

The in-vehicle Customer Information Card has been updated in line with the new National Maximum Taxi Fare. You can collect an updated Customer Information Card at an SPSV inspection centre.

### PHASE OUT OF IN-VEHICLE FARE STICKERS

In-vehicle customer information stickers (usually displayed on the dashboard/glove-compartment) are no longer required to be displayed in taxis. Operators can remove the customer information sticker should they wish to do so. These stickers will no longer be available at SPSV inspection centres.

A gentle reminder that all SPSVs are required to have the appropriate Customer Information Card for their licence category available for customers.

## COMPLIANCE

### PROSECUTIONS

NTA, with the assistance of local Gardaí successfully prosecuted three individuals for operating without valid SPSV licences in the south Tipperary area in recent months. All cases were heard before Clonmel district court, and all resulted in convictions and fines. Together, the three cases resulted in total fines and costs being imposed on the offenders of €2,300. There will be additional offences before the court later in 2022. NTA prosecutions resulted from covert operations and relied upon local Garda assistance. These types of operations will be ongoing.

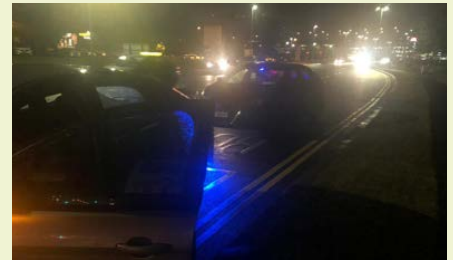
### UNLICENSED DETECTIONS

Since May, NTA have worked closely with An Garda Síochána during a series of covert operations to detect unlicensed operators, promoting their illegal services through social

media and attempting to use Dublin Airport as a base for their activity. Multiple detections were made and, with the assistance of Dublin Airport Police, several vehicles were seized. Prosecutions will follow.



## COMPLIANCE (CONT.)



## REGULATORY CONSULTATIONS: AUGUST 2022

NTA has commenced public consultations on the proposed increases to SPSV Fines for the Non-Compliant and SPSV Driver Licence Validity Period. Further information, including how to make submissions to the consultations, can be found by clicking [here](#).



## GRANTS

### RE-OPENING OF ESPSV GRANT

The eSPSV22 was paused for applications in April following the huge interest in the scheme and provisional grant offers being issued for over €15 million. This was to allow operators with grant offers the time to finalise their car purchase and draw down funding. The eSPSV scheme has now reopened for new applications. Applications will be accepted up to 30 November 2022 for this scheme. Vehicles must be licensed (passed the suitability inspection) by 31 December 2022 to get the funding. There will be no extensions of eSPSV22.

More information on how to apply, including the application form, can be found on the [Forms & Guides](#) section of NTA's website.



## GRANTS (CONT.)

### ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

NTA has launched online grant application forms for the eSPSV and WAV Grant Schemes to make grant applications quicker and easier for applicants. The online form means your application will be received immediately with no requirement to make a submission by post. This new online form will make the process more efficient for applicants and NTA alike.

Should you wish to submit a grant application, the online form can be found on the [Forms & Guides](#) page of NTA's website.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Note: applications can still be submitted via post for both grant schemes

### LAUNCH OF ZEVI

On 20 July the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, launched Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland. This new Office will play an important role in Ireland's transition to zero emission vehicles. It will work across government, industry, and society to support this transition. Its operations will include:

- supports for the uptake of zero emission vehicles,
- infrastructure delivery through funding and policy guidance,
- strategy and policy lead, including taxation and regulation,
- research and innovation, and,
- communications and public and stakeholder engagement.

Further information on the launch of ZEVI can be found [here](#).

## FEES RETURN TO NORMAL FROM 1 JANUARY 2023

NTA first implemented the waiver on late renewal fees at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic to assist the SPSV industry. Since 30 June 2022, licence holders have been required to pay a reduced late fee for replacing an expired licence. This fee will be the same as the normal standard renewal fee (€150/75/37.50) for the relevant licence category until 31 December 2022.

Please note, reduced late fees are also applicable if completing a [change of vehicle](#) on an expired licence.

Standard renewal fees for active licences will continue to be waived until 31 December 2022.

From 1 January 2023, all fees will return to normal as set out in the SPSV Regulations at [Schedule 1 Fees](#).

