

## REGULATORY CONSULTATIONS

Following public consultation, today the NTA Board approved the signing of the below Regulations.

### **SMALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE (CONTINGENCY MEASURE – VEHICLE SUPPLY) (MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE AGE) REGULATIONS.**

Recent climate, energy and geopolitical challenges, in particular, have made it impossible for all end of life SPSVs to be replaced before they reach their final operation date. These regulations facilitate the licensing of eligible taxis and hackneys for additional operation in excess of the usual Maximum Permissible Age Requirements.

These regulations permit an extension to the final operation date of vehicles due to reach their final date of operation/maximum permissible age between 13 March 2020 and 31 December 2024.

The Regulations have an enactment date of 1 January 2023. SPSV licence holders will receive communications in the coming weeks confirming the new final operation date of their current licensed vehicle.

### **SMALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE (FIXED PAYMENT OFFENCES AND DRIVER LICENCE PERIOD) REGULATIONS**

The proposal was to move the current Fixed Payment Offences Prescribed Amounts from the current four bands to five and to increase the amount of each Fixed Payment Notice (fine), except for two offences where the amount remains at €250. The current bands are €40, €60, €80, €250. The new bands will include €80, €100, €150, €200, €250.

In addition to these changes, a new Fixed Payment Offence will be introduced for the refusal of a driver of a SPSV to carry a passenger in a wheelchair. The amount for this will be €250, reflecting the gravity and nature of the offence.

In relation to the Driver Licence Validity Period, this amendment to the current regulations will allow the licensing authority (in this case An Garda Síochána) to consider all parts of the application when issuing a licence. Where it may be required, it will allow the licensing authority to issue a licence for a period of less than five years.

The Regulations have an enactment date of 1 January 2023.



# COMPLIANCE

## UNLICENSED DETECTIONS

**An Garda Síochána** @GardaTraffic

A joint operation between Roscommon Roads Policing Unit and The National Transport Authority SPSV compliance took place in Castlerea recently.

This driver was detected operating for hire or reward without the requisite licences or insurance.

Court to follow.

#SaferRoads



**An Garda Síochána** @GardaTraffic

An SPSV compliance operation took place in the Macroom District, Cork yesterday. Driver & vehicle detected operating for the carriage of persons for hire or reward without the requisite licences or insurance to do so. Vehicle seized & court to follow




11:05 AM · Oct 1, 2022 · Twitter Web App

**An Garda Síochána** @GardaTraffic

Joint SPSV Compliance Operation between Dublin Airport Gardaí & the NTA at Dublin Airport.

It was found that the driver was operating for hire or reward without the requisite licences or insurance.

Court to follow.



NTA continue to undertake operations across the country to detect individuals operating without any SPSV licences. Three recent operations, working alongside local Garda units, will all result in prosecutions for operating without SPSV licences and also for not having insurance.

These detections followed investigations of both local and online activity by illegal operators. These investigations will continue and any information on any illegal activity should be reported to NTA at [compliance@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:compliance@nationaltransport.ie)



## COMPLIANCE (CONT.)

### FPNS FOR CASHLESS COMPLAINTS AND AUDITS

From 1st September, it became a legal requirement for all SPSV drivers to have a functioning cashless payment device and to accept all customer requests to pay for fares through cashless payments.

Since this date, NTA compliance have been carrying out checks of taxis to ensure that devices are in place. Failure to have a functioning cashless payment device or failing to accept a cashless payment may result in an 'on the spot fine' of €200.

Since 1st September, NTA has received almost 100 customer complaints in relation to the failure to have a cashless payment device or failing to accept a cashless payment. With the assistance of those making the complaints, NTA will issue €200 'on the spot fines' wherever warranted.

### PROSECUTIONS

In October, at Clonmel District Court, NTA secured a conviction for operating without a SPSV licence and the court imposed fines and costs totalling €1,650 against the offender.

At another hearing at Listowel District Court in September, NTA secured a conviction for operating without a SPSV licence and the court imposed fines and costs of €1,050.

In Tuam District Court, NTA prosecuted an individual who, having been detected operating without any SPSV licence by NTA during an operation, was detected again two days later in a follow-up operation. Following conviction, fines and costs of €1,250 were imposed by the court for having no SPSV licence. The offences of having no SPSV Driver Licence were taken into consideration by the court.



## GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CASHLESS PAYMENTS IN TAXIS

Since 1 September last, by law all taxis must have an in-taxi point of sale cashless payment terminal and for cashless payments to be accepted for taxi journeys when requested by customers.

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

All SPSV operators are reminded that no extras apply for receiving payment by card. You are required to offer a taximeter receipt for each journey.



## GRANTS

### ESPSV GRANT

The Department of Transport will close the eSPSV22 Grant Scheme to new applications on the 30th November 2022. All applications received before that date will, of course, continue to be processed as normal. By the end of October, the eSPSV22 Scheme received a total of 2,493 applications, and approximately €6.5 million had been paid to applicants with the remainder of funding allocated to applicants with current provisional grant offers.

The Minister of Transport, Eamon Ryan, in a recent parliamentary question confirmed applicants who miss the end 2022 deadline will be able to apply again under a new scheme in 2023. NTA expects to receive further information on the 2023 scheme from the Department of Transport shortly. Details of the 2023 scheme will be publicised to SPSV industry members and stakeholders via the usual channels as soon as they are announced.

### WAV GRANT

By the end of October, 645 applications had been received to the WAV22 Grant Scheme with approximately €675,000 of funding paid to applicants. Uptake of the WAV Grant has meant that 17.2% of the fleet is now wheelchair accessible.

The Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Grant Scheme 2022 will close to new applicants on the 30th November 2022. Applications received after this date will not be considered. NTA will continue to administer all applications for the scheme which were received on or before the scheme closure.

Further information regarding the 2023 scheme will be published on the NTA website as soon as it is available. Once open, the quickest and easiest way to make an application is by completing the Online Grants Application Form.

## CCSN REMINDER: REQUIRED FOR CALLS FROM 2023

NTA is committed to maintaining the best possible standards in relation to the management of personal data. With this in mind we introduced a customer service number called a 'CCSN' in 2020. This is the unique identifier for your profile.

The CCSN will apply to any licences held with us regardless of the licence type, for example if you hold multiple SPSV Vehicle Licences and also hold a SPSV Drivers Licence, your unique CCSN will apply to all licences under your profile.

The number is included on most letters and/or emails you received from NTA throughout the year.

**Please keep a note of your CCSN as from 1st January 2023 you will need this for all transactions with the NTA.** This number is unique to your profile and as such should be kept confidential.

In the event of queries concerning individual CCSNs please contact the Information Line on 0818 064 000.

## FEES RETURN TO NORMAL FROM 1 JANUARY 2023

From 1 January 2023, all fees will return to normal as set out in the SPSV Regulations at [Schedule 1 Fees](#). Where an expired licence is replaced within 30 days of the licence entering an expired status, a partial refund will be issued as set out at [Schedule 1 Fees](#).



## JAM CARD

JAM Card allows people with a communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily.

The **JAM Card** is a social innovation from **NOW Group**, an organisation based in Belfast, which allows people with a learning disability or a communication barrier to indicate easily and discreetly that they might need 'Just A Minute' when accessing public transport.

Passengers with a learning disability, autism, or any other communication barrier can simply show the driver their JAM Card to convey that they might require a little more time and understanding. The NTA's aim in introducing the JAM Card is to continue in its efforts to make public transportation safe and accessible for all passengers, regardless of their circumstances.

There are 3 message options to choose from:

- 1) Please be patient, I have autism
- 2) Please be patient, I have a learning disability/difficulty
- 3) Please be patient, I have a condition

For those with a **learning difficulty, autism or any condition** where there can be a communication barrier, the JAM Card allows users to relay to others that they may need a little extra time in a simple, effective non-verbal manner. The JAM Card is useful when on public transport, in a retail or any other customer-facing environment.

Find out more about NOW Group at [www.nowgroup.org](http://www.nowgroup.org) and JAM Card© at [www.jamcard.org](http://www.jamcard.org).

## BUS EIREANN SCHOOL TRANSPORT SCHEME

Bus Eireann Operates the School Transport Scheme on behalf of the Department of Education and transports approximately 120,000 primary and post primary students daily. Bus Eireann urgently requires Taxis, minibuses and large coaches with drivers to operate School Transport services nationally.

Bus Eireann are inviting operators to apply.

Details on pre-qualification application process are available through etenders and at the link below.

[Public RFT - Provision of School Transport Services - Qualification Panels 2022 to 2027 \(eu-supply.com\)](http://eu-supply.com)

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

The SPSV Information Line and Inspection Centres will be closed on the 26th and 27th December and on January 2nd 2023.

Reduced hours will apply on the 28th, 29th and 30th December.

NTA encourages you to keep up to date on industry matters by visiting the SPSV Latest News section of the website.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful Christmas.

