

COMPLIANCE

NTA's Compliance Teams continue to work alongside An Garda Síochána to ensure that all licence holders are complying with regulations and, through continued joint covert activity, detect and prosecute individuals offering SPSV services without any licences.



An Garda Síochána
@GardaTraffic

A joint Garda / National Transport Authority compliance operation was conducted in Dublin Airport yesterday.

A driver was detected operating for hire or reward without the requisite licences to do so.

They were charged with court to follow.



An Garda Síochána @Garda... · 1d ...
Cork West Roads Policing Unit and the National Transport Authority conducted a joint operation recently.

Two unlicensed Small Public Service Vehicles (SPSV) were detected. One driver in Castletownbere and another in Schull.

Summonses and court to follow for both drivers.



CASHLESS PAYMENT DEVICES

Since 1st September 2022, it has been a legal requirement for ALL taxi drivers to carry a functioning in-taxi point of sale cashless payment terminal and for cashless payments to be accepted for taxi journeys when requested by customers. A failure to meet either of these requirements may result in a Fixed Payment Notice of €200 being issued.

Since it has become law, over 200 customer complaints have been submitted to NTA in relation to the requirement to have a functioning device and to accept cashless payment. Where evidence is presented to NTA that the legal requirement has not been met, a Fixed Payment Notice will be issued and progressed to prosecution where required. NTA compliance will continue to focus activity on the Cashless Payment Facility Regulations through both complaint investigation and on-street checks.



An Garda Síochána
@GardaTraffic

Gardaí from Kevin Street conducted a joint operation with Taxi Regulator staff and the NTA in the Camden Street area recently.

One taxi was seized for having no insurance, and several fines were issued by NTA for fare refusals, no card machines, and a defective vehicle.



COMPLIANCE (CONT.)

PROSECUTIONS

In the District Court in Macroom, following a joint NTA-An Garda Síochána operation, NTA prosecuted an individual for operating without any SPSV licences. The court handed down a criminal conviction and imposed a fine of €2,000, with additional costs of €750.

In Longford, NTA prosecuted an unlicensed limousine service following an investigation by NTA Compliance Officers into an unlicensed ‘wedding car’ service. This Court also handed down a criminal conviction and imposed fines and costs of €550.



FIXED PAYMENT NOTICES FROM 1ST JANUARY 2023

REFUSAL OF GUIDE DOGS AND WHEELCHAIR PASSENGERS

[The Small Public Service Vehicle \(Fixed Payment Offences and Driver Licence Period\) Regulations 2022](#), increased the Fixed Payment Notice relating to the refusal to carry an assistance dog or guide dog to €250 and introduced a new Fixed Payment Notice offence

for refusal of a passenger using a wheelchair. The penalty for this breach is also €250, reflecting the gravity and nature of the offence. The original Fixed Payment Notice for unreasonable refusal to carry of **any** passenger now carries an increased penalty of €150.

LIST OF FIXED PAYMENT OFFENCES:

Description of Offence	Fixed Penalty Amount
Failure to display the required in-vehicle information.	€100
Standing or parking at appointed stand while vehicle is not available for hire.	€80
Standing for hire in a taxi otherwise than at an appointed stand.	€100
Refusal to carry assistance dog or guide dog in a small public service vehicle.	€250
Failure to print and offer a taximeter receipt in the prescribed form to a passenger upon completion of a journey in a taxi.	€100
Failure to make available a receipt in the prescribed form to a passenger upon completion of a journey in a hackney or limousine.	€100
Standing or plying for hire in an area without a licence to stand or ply for hire in that area.	€200
Failure to comply with taxi roof sign requirements.	€100
Displaying on a hackney or limousine a sign or advertisement other than one approved in writing by the National Transport Authority.	€80

FIXED PAYMENT NOTICES FROM 1ST JANUARY 2023 (CONT.)

Description of Offence	Fixed Penalty Amount
Failure to notify details of the small public service vehicle being operated.	€200
Operating taximeter while taxi is standing for hire or plying for hire.	€150
Failure to operate taximeter while taxi is on hire.	€150
Failure to comply with the requirements in relation to the fitting and operation of a taximeter.	€150
Applying a booking fee in respect of a taxi which is engaged while applying for hire or standing for hire or without having been booked in advance by the consumer.	€100
Standing with a taxi on part of the public road adjoining or in proximity of an appointed stand when the appointed stand is full.	€80
Failure to display prominently the required valid SPSV Driver Display Card so as to be clearly visible.	€200
Failure to comply with the vehicle standards and requirements applicable to the relevant licence category.	€100
Failure of the driver of a hackney or limousine to carry the required booking record in respect of a hire.	€80
Failure to carry a functioning cashless payment device.	€200
Failure to accept cashless payment	€200
Removal, attempted removal, damage or interference with a small public service vehicle tamper-proof disc.	€150
Failure to display valid tamper-proof discs.	€150
Unreasonable refusal by the driver to carry a passenger.	€150
Failure to comply with the requirements in relation to the calibration of taximeters.	€250
Failure to have prescribed signage affixed to the front doors of taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi.	€250
Refusal by the driver to carry a passenger in a wheelchair.	€250

FEES RETURNED TO NORMAL FROM 1 JANUARY 2023

On 1 January 2023, all fees returned to normal as set out in the [Taxi Regulation \(Small Public Service Vehicle\) Regulations 2015](#) at Schedule 1 Fees.



MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE AGE

Supply shortages following recent geopolitical, energy, Brexit and climate challenges have made it unfeasible for all end of life SPSVs to be replaced before they reach their final operation date. As a result, NTA has implemented changes that facilitate the licensing of eligible taxis and hackneys for additional operation in excess of the usual Maximum Permissible Age Requirements.

The Small Public Service Vehicle (Contingency Measure – Vehicle Supply) (Maximum Permissible Age) Regulations 2022 permit an extension to the final operation date of licenced vehicles due to reach their final date of operation/maximum permissible age between 13 March 2020 and 31 December 2024.

Affected SPSV licence holders have received individual communications in recent weeks confirming the new final operation date of their current licenced vehicle.

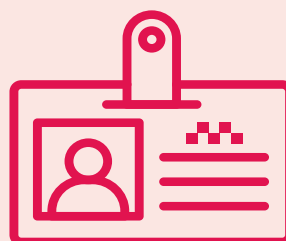


SECTION 15 NOMINATION PROCESS

Section 15 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 enables a licence holder to nominate a representative who may apply to NTA to continue to operate the licence in the event of the licence holder's death. The nomination process is free of charge and NTA encourages all licence holders to complete the nomination process. Further information on the process can be found in [Guide G15 \(Section 15 Nomination and Assignment\)](#).

To make a nomination please complete [Form S15N \(Application to Nominate a Person in the event of death\)](#) and return it to NTA. Also a hardcopy nomination form issued to every SPSV licence holder by post earlier this month to make it as easy as possible for everyone to protect their licence.

The nomination will only be complete when you have received your confirmation of nomination letter from NTA. Please retain this valuable letter with your personal documents. This is the only way that a vehicle licence may be given to someone else – including your intention in your will is not sufficient.

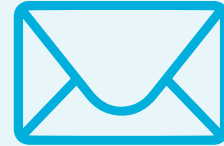


CCSN: REQUIRED FOR CALLS AND SERVICES

As you know, NTA introduced a confidential customer service number called a 'CCSN', which is now your unique identifier as a licence holder. The number is included on letters and emails from NTA to SPSV licence holders. This number is exclusive to your SPSV profile and should be kept confidential.

When contacting the SPSV Information Line please have your CCSN ready, as it will be used in our security questions for data protection. Your CCSN will also be required when registering for SPSV Online Services for

maintaining driver links and rental agreements. Information on how to register for SPSV Online Services can be found [here](#). Please note that you may not be able to access these services without your CCSN.



SUITABILITY INSPECTION REQUIREMENT – VEHICLE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES ('LOG BOOK')

Regulations 13, 14 and 16 of the Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015 require that either evidence of vehicle ownership or evidence of legal entitlement to use of the vehicle for a period of not less than 12 months is provided to NTA for licensing.

Licence holders must bring the original vehicle registration certificates (VRC – still commonly referred to as the log book) to all SPSV suitability inspections. Alternatively, where a vehicle is held under a hire purchase or lease agreement, NTA will accept written confirmation on letter headed paper from the registered owner of the vehicle stating the SPSV licence holder is legally entitled to the use and possession of the vehicle for a period of not less than 12 months.

Since September 2021, original certificates or other evidence of legal entitlement to the use of a vehicle as an SPSV, have been recorded as part of all SPSV suitability inspections in the same way as insurance certificates. This will be introduced as a fail item at the SPSV suitability inspection from 1 March 2023, meaning that **if neither of these documents are presented, the inspection will result in a fail and your vehicle will not be licensed that day.**



LOCAL HACKNEY PILOT

The Local Hackney Pilot is a one year grant aided programme designed to encourage part time local hackney services to operate in 21 rural communities stretching from Donegal to Cork to help improve transport choices for people living in rural communities across the country. It aims to assist designated areas which cannot support a full time taxi or hackney operation.

One critical feature of this special limited licence is that no Local Hackney service may replace or displace any standard taxi or hackney service already operating and providing services in an area.

Further information is available at www.localhackney.ie. Closing date for acceptance of applications is February 28, with applications being assessed and pilot places offered on an ongoing basis.

GRANTS

WAV GRANT

The 2023 WAV Grant opened on January 1 and the response has been remarkable, with a record number of applications received. As a result, all allocated funding has now been provisionally offered, meaning that new applications are being placed on a waitlist.

Should the funding offered not be drawn down by provisionally approved applicants failing to complete the process, we will contact the applicants on the waitlist.

Please note, if you licence a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle without receipt of a Provisional Grant Offer, you will not receive grant funding.

If you wish to withdraw your application for the WAV23 Grant Scheme or be removed from the waitlist, please contact us at wav.grant@nationaltransport.ie.

eSPSV GRANT

The Department of Transport has confirmed that the hugely successful eSPSV grant scheme will open for eSPSV23 in the coming weeks. The Scheme Terms & Conditions are set by the Department of Transport who also provide the funding which is then administered by NTA.

Current taxi, hackney, limousine and wheelchair accessible taxi/hackney licence holders may apply to receive funding under the Scheme to buy electric vehicles to replace their current vehicles once the Scheme is opened.

NTA will update all licence holders when the Department opens the eSPSV23 Grant Scheme. We advise anyone who is interested in participating in the Scheme, to keep an eye on the [Latest News for SPSV Operators](#) on the NTA website.

