

SPSV

INDUSTRY UPDATE

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SPSV Licence expiring in the next 2 months?

Renew now!

Is your SPSV licence due to expire in the next 2 months? Why not begin your renewal process early? Completing the renewal inspection early does not change the annual expiry date of your licence – it remains one full year (or six months) from the date on the current licence.

The late summer is busy and available renewal inspection appointments may book up quickly in the weeks ahead. NTA cannot guarantee the appointment you want if you don't begin the renewal process in good time.

You must have the following at least two working days before calling to book your renewal inspection appointment:

- Valid NCT certificate dated within 90 days of your inspection appointment date.
- Valid electronic tax clearance.

Always have your confidential customer service number 'CCSN' to hand along with details of your insurance.

The dedicated NCT Booking line for SPSV operators is 01-4135960.

What is a Local Area Hackney Licence?

The Local Area Hackney (LAH) licence is a special, limited hackney licence that supports rural community transport through a locally operated hackney service.

It is different to regular SPSV licences because LAH licence holders may pick up passengers only from within an approved rural area. Applicants for a LAH licence can choose their rural area using the [NTA's online mapping tool](#).

Key Features

- **Local operation only:** Drivers may pick up passengers only within their licensed rural area. Passengers can be dropped off anywhere, but drivers cannot accept new fares outside their licensed area.
- **Five-year licence term:** Licences are granted for five years, subject to ongoing community support which must be provided annually.
- **Advance bookings only:** All journeys must be pre-booked and managed locally, which means they cannot connect with a national taxi app

Vehicle Requirements

Local Area Hackney vehicles must meet all applicable hackney vehicle standards. Full details are available in the Suitable Vehicle List on the NTA website.

How to Apply

1

Apply and receive approval for a designated local area.

2

Provide evidence of community support.

3

License a suitable Local Area Hackney vehicle.

4

Apply for a Local Area Hackney SPSV driver licence through An Garda Síochána or add the approved local area to an existing SPSV driver licence.

Existing SPSV Drivers

Current SPSV drivers may operate a Local Area Hackney service!!

For further information and application details, visit:
www.nationaltransport.ie/taxi/localhackney/

Important:

Applicants with an existing SPSV vehicle licence cannot apply for an LAH (vehicle) licence



Important Reminder for SPSV Licence Holders and Applicants

Only the Vehicle Licence Holder (VLH) may contact the NTA to book appointments or make enquiries regarding licence information.

For queries relating to SPSV driver or vehicle licensing, please email taxis@nationaltransport.ie.

If you have submitted a PSV 15 or PSV 18 form to An Garda Síochána, any follow-up queries regarding the status or progress of your application must be directed to **An Garda Síochána**.



The National Transport Authority (NTA) has **no role in the processing of PSV 15 or PSV 18 applications** and cannot provide updates on their status. **Only An Garda Síochána have information on the status of your application.** If you would like an update, contact the Garda station you applied to.

Did you know?

Compliance

Operating a vehicle with defective or unsafe tyres could result in enforcement action,

including prosecution



Recently, the NTA encountered an SPSV operating with a tyre in a seriously deteriorated condition. The tyre's plies were exposed, and the tread had begun separating from the sidewall around its circumference, creating a significant road safety risk. A prosecution file has been submitted in relation to an alleged breach of Regulation 42(1).

As the licence holder and driver, you are responsible for ensuring that your vehicle complies with all legal requirements and remains roadworthy at all times. Regular tyre inspections should form part of your routine vehicle maintenance.

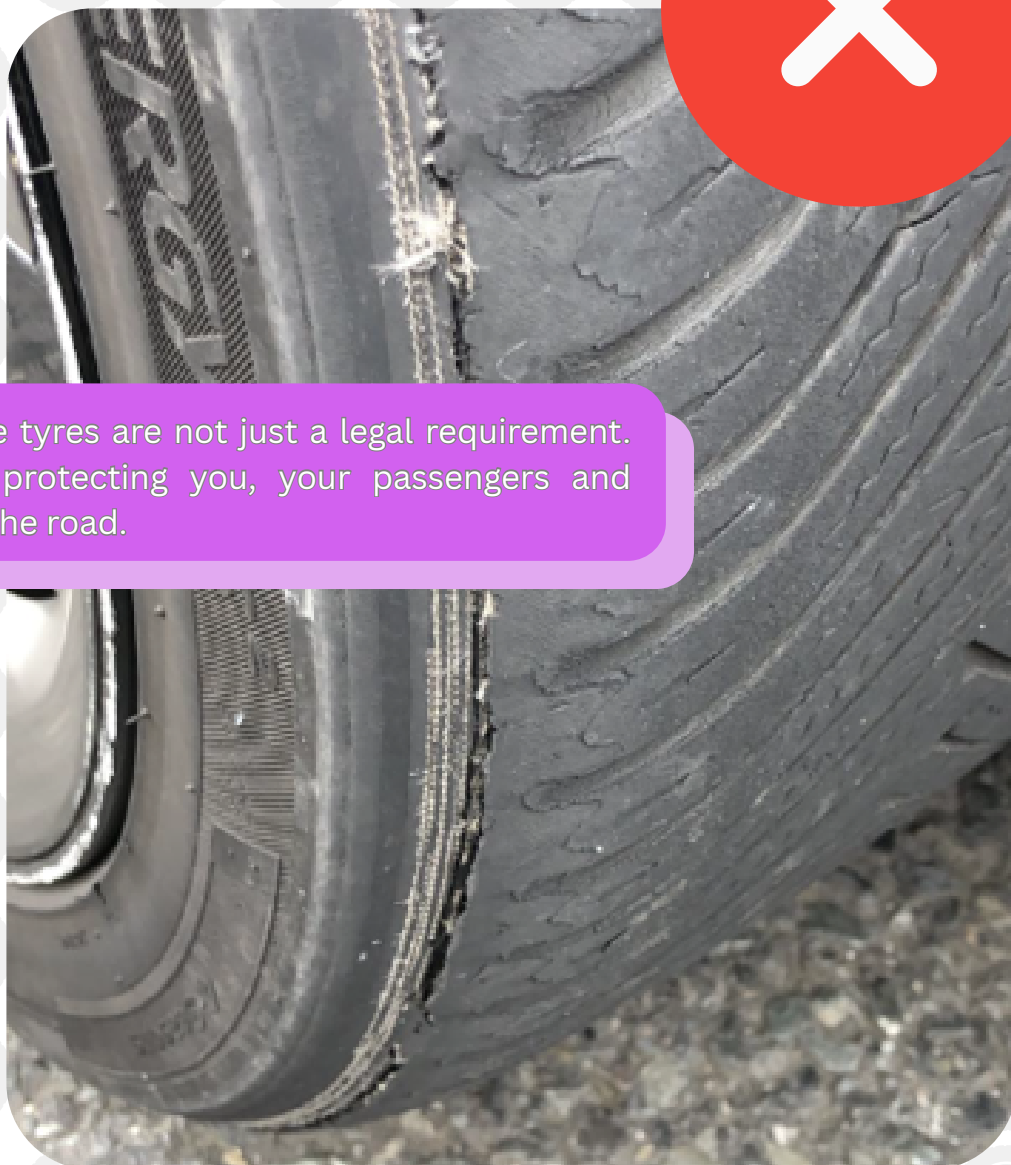


When checking your tyres, look out for:

- Correct tyre inflation pressures
- Cuts, cracks or splits in the tyre
- Bulges, distortion or other signs of structural damage
- Exposed cords or plies
- Excessive or uneven tread wear
- Signs of tread separation or other defects

If you notice any of these issues, the tyre should be professionally inspected and replaced where necessary before the vehicle is used.

A quick tyre check takes only a few minutes but could prevent a collision, vehicle downtime, enforcement action, or costly repairs. Making tyre safety part of your daily walk-around inspection helps keep your vehicle safe, compliant and on the road.



Remember:

Safe tyres are not just a legal requirement. They're essential for protecting you, your passengers and everyone else sharing the road.

Court Outcomes Report 2027

From March 2027, the NTA will publish a quarterly Court Outcomes Report. To allow for the completion of any appeal process, cases will be published one quarter after the relevant appeal period has expired. The report will provide high-level information on prosecutions undertaken by the NTA that result in either a conviction or the application of the Probation Act by the Court.

The report will state whether the individual or company were licensed at the time of the offence and the local authority area where they reside (or, for Dublin residents, their postal district). This approach is intended to promote transparency and accountability in the enforcement of SPSV legislation helping to ensure a level playing field for all operators.

The first publication will cover Q4 2026 only.

This reporting will not affect the vast majority of SPSV licence holders, who operate in compliance with the relevant legislation.



New to the industry?

Consider getting a taxi or hackney licence with a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle

Thinking about getting your own SPSV Licence?



If you have recently received your SPSV driver licence from An Garda Síochána, or if you are currently driving a rented vehicle and looking to make the leap into self-employment, licensing a **wheelchair accessible vehicle** might just be the right move for you!

Your Bottom Line: Financial Benefits of WAVs

50% More years licensed.

50% More years earning.

50% More value from your investment.

A wheelchair accessible taxi can stay licensed for 15 years - **50% longer** than a standard taxi.

50%

That means your vehicle can remain licensed and earning income for **50% longer**, helping you:

- Generate income from the same vehicle for five additional years
- Spread vehicle purchase and depreciation costs over a longer period

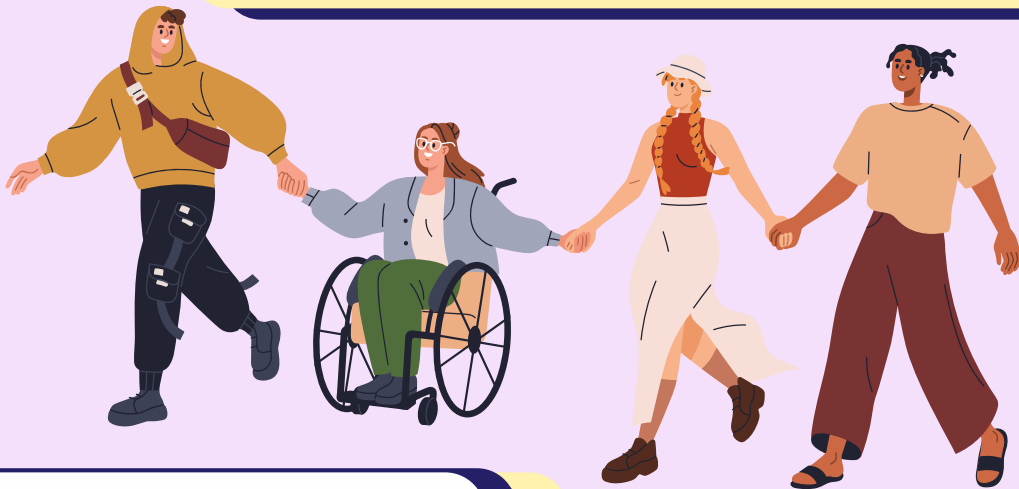
- Improve the overall return on your investment
- Reduce the frequency and cost of vehicle replacement

Specialised vehicle leads to a larger customer base and greater earning potential

Wheelchair accessible vehicles **are not just for wheelchair users** – they also offer a better option for older passengers and people with mobility challenges.

Many healthcare facilities, hotels, schools, and community organisations require accessible transport services, creating additional business opportunities.

Accessible transport is an essential service and will always be in demand and generate repeat business.



6 Year Rule: Reduced Upfront Costs with a Quality Used Vehicle

Because a WAV can be up to six years old when first licensed operators have the option of purchasing a used vehicle rather than buying new. This provides a more affordable route to WAT ownership.

Missed the Grant? Don't Put Your Plans on Hold

While the NTA's Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Grant can make vehicle ownership more affordable, demand for funding is often higher than many applicants expect and grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Prospective applicants should always **view the grant as a potential benefit rather than a prerequisite.**

With a range of **alternative funding options** available to support new licence holders, including bank loans, credit union finance, hire purchase agreements and supports from Microfinance Ireland for both new and used vehicles, **the door is always open to start your journey today!**



Enhanced Job Satisfaction!

Most importantly, operating a wheelchair accessible taxi allows you to provide an **essential service** that helps people travel safely, comfortably and independently. Many WAV drivers have told us that this aspect of the role is one of the most **rewarding** parts of the job.

