

SPSV

INDUSTRY UPDATE

MAY 2024

ISSUE 64

INDUSTRY INFORMATION LINE: 0818 064 000



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Vehicle Inspections

Rules around tinted windows

Clear windows are required adjacent to all seating positions for taxis and hackneys to pass the vehicle suitability inspection. Only the rear windscreen, sunroof and fixed rear fly windows, if positioned behind the headrest of rear passenger seat, are exempt. To check a vehicle you are considering purchasing, look at the details stamped on the glass itself. Almost all glass for cars within Europe will be marked with a letter “E” in a circle and a number starting with “43R”. If there is a “V” near this symbol, the glass is too dark and will not pass inspection. You can check out the Initial Suitability Inspection Manual on our website for more information.



Dont forget to bring the correct documents for your inspection

A large amount of failed inspections are caused by incomplete or missing insurance documentation. Make sure to bring your insurance certificate, check that the insurance is in date, and that SPSV use is specified on the policy.

Detailed requirements for insurance are that:

- The vehicle being inspected is listed on the insurance policy;
- The insurance policy is in date;
- The policy covers hire for reward services or use as an SPSV; and
- The policy holder named on the certificate is the vehicle licence holder.

The insurance certificate will be checked by the inspector and returned at the end of the licensing inspection. Please read your renewal reminder and booking confirmation notices for full details. Failure to produce a correct certificate will result in a failed inspection.

Compliance Activities

As well as our usual compliance and enforcement activities, NTA Compliance Teams continue to work alongside An Garda Síochána, Revenue, and the Department of Social Protection nationwide to ensure that all licence holders are complying with regulations.

Through continued joint activity with An Garda Síochána, NTA detects and prosecutes individuals offering SPSV services without valid licences. So far in 2024, NTA has secured 15 convictions in court against unlicensed operators. These cases involved individuals providing services without holding an SPSV driver licence, operating vehicles without the required vehicle licence, or displaying taxi signage without proper authorisation.

This type of compliance activity is carried out specifically for the purpose of ensuring safety for members of the travelling public and to ensure fairness to SPSV operators who work legally within the regulatory framework of the SPSV industry.





An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection



Requirements for operating a WAV

WAV drivers are responsible for ensuring their vehicles are up to standard, with each WAV being capable of accommodating at least one additional passenger alongside an occupied wheelchair. Unfortunately, both public complaints and roadside inspections carried out by our compliance officers have revealed several common breaches of the requirements:

- **Refusal:** NTA has received complaints regarding drivers refusing to carry wheelchair users. Such incidents are taken very seriously, and our compliance team investigates each complaint thoroughly.  
- **Improper Use of Wheelchair Space:** Storing a full-sized spare tire in the designated wheelchair space is prohibited, as it obstructs the intended purpose of providing space for wheelchairs.
- **Ramp Maintenance:** Broken ramps pose significant barriers to accessibility. It is mandatory for ramps to be in proper working order at all times. Our compliance team conducts rigorous testing to ensure compliance with this essential safety requirement.

Refusal by a driver to carry a passenger in a wheelchair can result in a fixed payment notice of €250. Failure to comply with vehicle standards can result in a fixed payment notice of €100.

NTA urges WAV drivers to prioritise compliance with related regulations to support an inclusive and accessible transport environment for all passengers.

Process Reminders

Section 15 process - important information for nominees

The only way to make an existing vehicle licence available for application by another person is through the 'Section 15 process'. This process allows for an application for the grant of a vehicle licence of the same type to be made by a S15 nominee, following the death of a licence holder.

NTA has processed many of these applications recently and has unfortunately noted a number of issues that led to applicants not completing the process successfully. To support future applicants with completing the process, NTA has set out the key requirements here:

Part 1: Nominate a Section 15 nominee to take over your licence in the event of your death. Form S15N on the NTA website is used for this. NTA will provide you with confirmation that the nominee has been added to your file. It is worth saving this confirmation in a location that will be accessible in the event of your death.

Part 2: In the event of your death, the nominee can complete form S15A to apply to for the same licence within 9 months. Completion of this application can only occur once a number of related requirements have been completed, so S15 nominees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the full process when they are appointed to avoid disappointment.

Further information on the process can be found in Guide G15 on the NTA website.

Consultations

MAXIMUM FARE REVIEW 2024

NTA is continuing work on the National Maximum Taxi Fare Review 2024, which assesses for changes in taxi operating costs and the market that might impact operators. This work was last carried out in 2022 when the Maximum Taxi Fare was increased by a weighted average of 12% to reflect the then increase in operating costs faced by taxi drivers.

NTA will continue to keep operators updated as the review progresses. A public consultation is expected to launch this summer, with operator and user submissions invited.



2024 Grant Scheme Updates

ESPSV Grant 2024 update

The eSPSV Grant Scheme 2024 remains open for applications, with €11,500,000 made available by the Department of Transport for this year's Scheme. The Scheme provides grants towards new and second hand EVs, with a higher level of funding on offer where you scrap your older, existing vehicle. Over €3 million has already been paid with many more applications still in process. Further information on the eSPSV24 Grant Scheme is available [here](#) and applications can be made online [here](#).



eSPSV Grant Scheme – “Service Period”

NTA wishes to remind eSPSV grant recipients that the terms and conditions require the service to be provided for a period of 36 months from the date of the grant.

In special circumstances, the grant aided vehicle associated with the licence can be replaced provided the replacement vehicle is also an EV and is no older than the grant aided vehicle. If you need to complete such a change of vehicle i.e. after an accident, you should contact NTA to discuss the details in advance as failure to comply with the terms and conditions may result in a recall of the initial grant.

WAV Grant 2024 update

NTA received more than 2,900 applications for the WAV24 Grant Scheme and continues to process successful submissions. To date, 250 wheelchair accessible SPSVs have been licenced under the 2024 Scheme, and in May, further grant offers were issued to cancellation list applicants.



Blue badge parking

A reminder to operators of WAV vehicles that WAVs can use disabled parking spaces when collecting and dropping off passengers, once they are carrying a passenger who has a disabled persons parking badge.



Commendations

Congratulations! The following drivers have received a commendation from their passengers:

Rashid Khan N1818

Daniel Day H5653

Shahbaz Ahmed M0387

John Barnwell K7743

Gerard Graham K1470



Have you provided NTA with your current contact details?

It is important that licence holders provide us with their up to date email address and contact details to receive renewal reminders, news updates and information regarding legislative changes. Please contact the Information Line on 0818 064 000 or taxis@nationaltransport.ie to update your details ensure you do not miss out on important news and notifications.

