

SPSV

INDUSTRY UPDATE

December 2024

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INDUSTRY INFORMATION LINE: 0818 064 000



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General Information

New National Maximum Taxi Fare from 1st December 2024

Following the new fare announcement on September 20, the new National Maximum Taxi Fare Order came into effect on December 1st. The Legal Metrology Service (LMS) of the NSAI has advised that all new fare programs for all models of taximeters are now approved, and the taximeter installer of your choice can now take bookings for the installation and calibration of your taximeter with the new fare.

Once your taximeter has been installed and calibrated with the new fare program and you have received your 'Taximeter Trader Information' (TTI) form by email from your installer, you can make a verification (taximeter sealing) booking with LMS by logging onto their booking site: [Start your taximeter verification - NSAI Taximeter](#), or alternatively by contacting the LMS booking line on: 01 413 5951

Please see the LMS advice in relation to taximeter verification: [Verification of taximeters in Ireland](#) | [NSAI](#).

In circumstances where a verification was not carried out on or before the 1st December 2024, the taxi may not be operated unless formal evidence of a verification appointment can be provided on the spot by the driver to An Garda Síochána, Legal Metrology Inspectors or NTA Compliance Officers.



WAV Updates

Free Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) training for drivers and applicants

From 1st January 2025, NTA will offer free, practical training on the use of WAVs to all SPSV driver licence holders and applicants who have completed the SPSV Entry test.

This training is currently compulsory for everyone who avails of the WAV Grant. Extending the training to all drivers will assist in developing driver knowledge and skills, contribute to drivers' professional development and increase standards for passengers.

Training will be provided by the Irish Wheelchair Association for NTA. The practical training course teaches attendees to use wheelchair passenger safety systems to assist their passengers, and builds confidence in communicating with customers who have a disability. Attendance is free of charge and sessions are now available to book for January 2025. **If you would like to avail of this free training, you can call the Industry Information line to book your place on 0818 064 000.**

WAV Grant Scheme 2025

NTA is pleased to confirm that the Wheelchair Accessible Grant Scheme 2025 will open for applications on the 6th January 2025 at 10:00am.

Due to the large number of applications received on day 1 of the grant opening last year that were not progressed with, NTA encourages all potential applicants to read the information and guidance below and to only make an application where they are in a position to progress it. This will ensure that applicants who are ready to take up an offer are given the opportunity.

- The WAV Grant Scheme is planned to be available twice in 2025, with TWO separate rounds of applications being accepted
- Round one will open for applications on January 6
- If Round 1 is filled, Round 2 is planned to open for applications in July
- That means that if you plan to change your vehicle or apply for a licence in 2025, but you do not have a vehicle yet, you will have an opportunity to apply for a grant later in the year
- The Grant portal will close once sufficient applications have been received. Potential applicants who are ready to progress an application are therefore encouraged to apply early on day 1
- Applications will be on a first come, first served basis
- There will be a new maximum of 5 applications accepted per applicant, previously 10
- Provisional Grant Offers (PGO's) offered will be valid for 5 months, previously 3
- There will be no extensions offered for grant offers
- In the interest of fairness, applicants awarded provisional grant offers in Round 1 of WAV25 who fail to complete process, cannot reapply to Round 2

As in previous years, applications must be made online. Further details on how to apply as well as the conditions of the Scheme will be available on the on the NTA website soon.

Applicants to the 2024 WAV Grant Scheme who were unsuccessful in receiving an offer are reminded that they will need to make a new application for the grant in 2025 as the 2024 Scheme is closed and applications do not carry over.

Information for operators of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

WAV licence holders who operate wheelchair accessible vehicles are reminded of the following requirements to ensure they remain compliant and can offer a safe and respectful service to their passengers:

- A User Manual detailing the correct use of the vehicle's wheelchair related equipment must be kept in the vehicle.
- The loading ramp/boarding aid must be fully functional with no signs of damage that could stop it from being used safely.
- All required wheelchair restraints must be fully present, functional and have no signs of damage that could stop them from being used safely.
- Where fitted, the front wheelchair restraint lock release switch must be fully functional.
- In the case of drop floor conversions, no equipment can be stored loose in the accommodation area. A tyre emergency sealant can be used as an alternative to a spare type.

Compliance Updates

Monaghan Operation

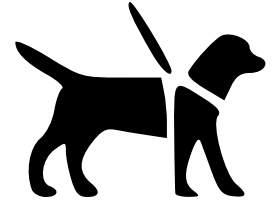
On the evening of November 14th, An Garda Síochána and the National Transport Authority (NTA) conducted a joint enforcement operation in Monaghan town. The initiative led to the seizure of several vehicles found to be operating for hire or reward without the required licenses or insurance.

Appropriate court summonses are expected to follow for the individuals involved. NTA emphasises the importance of industry members reporting any incidents of unlicensed activity. Such reports enable NTA to maintain a fair and competitive environment within the industry while enhancing public safety.

By working together, NTA and industry stakeholders can ensure a level playing field for compliant operators and safeguard the trust of the public.



Assistance Dogs or Guide Dogs



Guide dogs and assistance dogs accompanying persons with disabilities are permitted to travel on all public transport services, including SPSVs, free of charge and without restriction. Assistance and guide dogs are trained to sit quietly in the footwell at their owner's feet. Refusal to carry Assistance Dog or Guide Dog in a SPSV is a serious matter and is subject to a €250 fixed payment notice.

SPSV Driver Updates

Is your SPSV driver Licence expiring in 2025?

2025 is due to be a very busy year for SPSV driver licence renewals. If your driver licence is due for renewal, you should make your application to An Garda Síochána as early as possible.

Remember, your renewal application can be made up to 3 months before your expiry date, and early renewal will not affect the expiry date of your existing licence; a new licence will be valid from the expiry of your current licence. Further information on the SPSV driver licence renewal process and requirements can be found [here](#).

Whilst payment for your renewal is made to NTA, remember that An Garda Síochána, as the licensing authority for SPSV driver licences, should be contacted with any query about your renewal.

Vehicle Licence Updates

Preparing for your suitability inspection

Throughout the year, NTA receives calls and emails from industry members who are preparing for their first suitability inspection. There are some aspects of preparing for this that many operators are unsure about, so NTA has provided information on these here to assist.

The following documents are needed to successfully complete your suitability inspection:

- Original certificate of insurance showing that the vehicle is covered for use as an SPSV. The spelling of your name on the certificate must be identical to that on the SPSV vehicle licence
- NCT certificate for the vehicle you propose to license, issued within 90 days of the date of your inspection appointment
- Proof of ownership or legal entitlement to use the vehicle as an SPSV. Consult [Guide G1](#) for further details
- Technical Assessor's Report if relevant

You can check the [Initial Suitability Inspection Manual](#) for more information about suitability criteria.

NTA Information

NTA Website

NTA's website nationaltransport.ie has a dedicated SPSV section and is a good place to start if you are looking for information and updates. Here's some of what you will find if you go to the [Taxi/SPSV section](#):

- **Latest News & Updates**

Recent announcements affecting the SPSV industry are published here- check regularly to stay informed.

- **Forms and guides**

On this page you will find application forms, helpful guides on SPSV licensing and operating including technical guides and user guides. Next time you are looking for answers or guidance check this page get access to these helpful resources.

- **Vehicle licensing** and **Driver licensing**

Access all the information you need to apply for a licence or renew a licence, from documents required to meeting the technical requirements for licensing a vehicle – it is all here along with links to further information.

- **Contact & Support**

Here you will find out how to contact NTA by phone, email or online.



Email Communications with NTA

When submitting a general query, licence application or grant application to NTA by email, you will receive an automated email response which includes a case reference number (**example: CA123456**).

When replying to NTA in relation to that case, please ensure to include your case reference number in the email subject line. Including the case reference number will allow us to process your correspondence more efficiently, leading to improved response times.

General Information

Lost Property

As the festive season draws closer and an increase in the use of SPSVs is anticipated, the possibility of passengers mislaying their belongings in SPSVs is likely to increase. Any property left in your vehicle by a passenger should be delivered either to a designated Garda Station (Dublin), or the local Garda Station, as soon as possible.

There are five designated stations within Dublin for lost property: Finglas, Irishtown, Shankill, Store Street and Tallaght. Further information can be found on [An Garda Síochána's website](#).

A big thank you to all the drivers who have gone out of their way to reunite passengers with their lost property.



Be Winter Ready: RSA Guidance

The government's [Be Winter Ready](#) website provides advice on how to prepare for winter. Click on the link to find useful tips to ensure your vehicle is prepared for winter and also guidance for driving in severe weather conditions.



Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

The SPSV Information Line and Inspection Centres will be closed on the 25th and 26th December and on 1st January 2025.

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 Festive Season.