

# Taxi Newsletter



Welcome to the March 2020 edition of the Taxi Newsletter...

## Annual Administration Fee Payment

The annual administration fee for taxi and luxury hire car licences is due to be paid before **1 April 2020**.

You are now able to pay your annual administration fee online using a credit card.

The annual administration fee can be paid online by either:

- the licence owner or holder; or
- the responsible operator.

To pay the annual administration fee on line you will need:

If you are the licence owner or holder:

- the letter sent to you by the Transport Commission about the annual administration fee
- your client ID number (CID) provided in that letter and
- a valid credit card.

If you are the responsible operator:

- your accreditation number
- the licence number and plate number for every taxi or luxury hire car licence you intend to pay for and
- valid credit card.

You will need to go to <https://eform.transport.tas.gov.au/adminfee> and follow the prompts.

You can still choose to pay in person at a Service Tasmania shop if you wish to do so. You may choose this option if you do not have a credit card so cannot pay online.

## National Police Certificate (NPC)

It is a condition of accreditation that you supply a correct NPC when required by a condition of your accreditation.

This month the Commission has updated the 'NPC Fact Sheet'. You are encouraged to read through the information provided to remind yourself of the condition placed upon accreditation. This fact sheet is attached.

## Taxi Licencing Areas

Taxis are only allowed to operate within the taxi area to which the taxi licence relates.

Your licence cannot be used to operate a taxi outside the relevant taxi area.

As an Operator you must make sure drivers comply with the regulations about taxi areas. The driver cannot provide a trip that both starts and ends outside the relevant taxi area.

## Taxi Ranks

As an Operator of a taxi service you are legally accountable in relation to your drivers being aware of their duties.

You need to make sure that your drivers know the following:

- they cannot refuse to accept a hiring when on a taxi rank (unless they fear for the safety);
- they must move the taxi to the first vacant space available within the rank
- they must not prevent another taxi from leaving a taxi rank
- they are not to tell a person that they must hire the front taxi on the taxi rank and
- they are not to leave the taxi parked unattended on a taxi rank.

## Fraud and the Taxi Subsidy Program

The Taxi Subsidy Program (TSP) helps Tasmanians living with disability by covering some of the cost of travelling in a taxi. Taxi drivers use a member's Taxi Smartcard to enable the member to receive an on-the-spot discount on their taxi fare.

As an Operator you need to make sure that your drivers are aware of the rules relating to the TSP, and ensure that your drivers comply with those rules. You should be aware that as an operator, if you accept TSP payments for claims by your driver that you know are fraudulent, you may be implicated.

The Department of State Growth has a range of mechanisms for detecting misuse of the TSP through a comprehensive compliance and monitoring program.

When a taxi driver or operator is found to have committed fraud, we can take a number of different actions including:

- advising the Registrar of Motor Vehicles who may suspend or cancel the driver's ancillary certificate
- advising the Transport Commission who may suspend or cancel the operator's accreditation and/or
- requesting Tasmania Police to investigate and prosecute either the driver, operator or both.

Tasmania Police does investigate and prosecute these cases. As a result of two prosecutions in 2019:

- a Hobart taxi driver was sentenced to a 4 month prison term (suspended), convictions recorded, 8 months of community correction, and a compensation order awarded for repayment of over \$24,000 as well as court costs and victims' compensation levies along with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles cancelling the driver's ancillary certificate; and
- a Launceston taxi driver was sentenced to 140 hours of community service, convictions recorded and a compensation order awarded for repayment of \$19,900 as well as court costs.

You can report instances of suspected fraud by emailing [ptsbs@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:ptsbs@stategrowth.tas.gov.au).

## Pre-Departure Inspections

As an Operator you must have the systems to make sure every vehicle used for your service is safe.

Your system must include procedures for pre-departure inspections occur every day. Anyone who drives the vehicle must understand the importance of undertaking the pre-departure inspection.

A pre-departure inspection is a basic roadworthiness check of the following:

<b>Interior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• seatbelts</li></ul>
<b>Lights and reflectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• lights including clearance lights reflectors and lenses for breakages</li></ul>
<b>Regulation signs and labels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• inspection label and no-smoking sign</li></ul>
<b>Mirrors, windows and windscreens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mirrors</li><li>• windscreens, windows and mirror surfaces are clean and checked for damage</li></ul>
<b>Wheels, trims and rims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• tyre pressure and tread integrity</li><li>• wheels, rims and retaining rims</li><li>• wheel security (loose or missing wheel nuts)</li></ul>
<b>Horns and signals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• horn</li><li>• audible reversing signal</li></ul>
<b>Wipers and washers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• wipers</li><li>• windscreen washers have sufficient fluid</li></ul>
<b>Emergency exit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• emergency hammer in place</li></ul>
<b>Oils, fuel and water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• levels</li><li>• leaks of any fluid (oil, water, refrigerant/coolant, hydraulic fluid, brake fluid or other)</li></ul>
<b>Structure and body work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• panels and readily visible structural members are secure</li></ul>
<b>Brakes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• brake failure indicators</li><li>• pressure/vacuum gauges</li><li>• brake application</li><li>• air tank (if applicable)</li></ul>

When a fault is detected during a pre-departure inspection you must have a procedure so you quickly become aware of the fault. When you are aware of a vehicle fault you must be able to organise for the fault to be fixed. You are responsible to ensure that the fault is fixed, before the fault becomes worse and the vehicle becomes unsafe.

For a basic template form to carry out the pre-departure inspection you may choose to use:  
[https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/111979/Operator\\_Accreditation\\_Manual\\_-\\_Forms.pdf](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/111979/Operator_Accreditation_Manual_-_Forms.pdf).

## Owner-Operator Taxi Licences

The Commissioner for Transport approved the release of all unsold OOTLs left over from the 2019 Tender for sale on 18 January 2020. OOTL licences are available in all taxi areas at fixed prices.

To find out more information go to:

[https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/passenger/operators/taxi\\_hire\\_vehicle\\_and\\_ride\\_sourcing/taxi\\_and\\_hire\\_vehicle\\_operators/owner-operator\\_taxi\\_licences](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/passenger/operators/taxi_hire_vehicle_and_ride_sourcing/taxi_and_hire_vehicle_operators/owner-operator_taxi_licences).

To obtain an application pack you will need to email [operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au).

## On-Demand Small Passenger Transport Review

Submissions on the draft On-demand Passenger Transport Services Industry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2020 closed on 21 February 2020. The submissions will be published on [www.transport.tas.gov.au](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au) once permission has been received from respondents.

A final Bill, incorporating any changes as a result of feedback received, will be introduced into Parliament in the coming months.

## Coronavirus

Publicity surrounding the recent global outbreak of the coronavirus has been substantial. To stay informed go to:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-drivers-and-passengers-using-public-transport>.

## Regulations and Concessions Unit

If you require assistance please email:

[operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au).