



## On-Demand Bill

Parliament recently passed changes to the *Passenger Transport Services Act 2011*. The changes are aimed at creating a level playing field for the taxi industry and ride-sourcing industries.

Some of the first changes which the taxi industry will notice are extensions to the operating age of taxis and new requirements for vehicles to become taxis. As the changes are implemented, information will be circulated via the Taxi Newsletter.

## Maximum operating age of taxis

From 30 December 2020, taxis can be used until aged 12 years.

The 12 year period is calculated from the:

- date on the compliance plate affixed to the vehicle, or
- date of manufacture recorded for the vehicle in the Register of Motor Vehicles and Trailers.

## New requirements for a vehicle to become a taxi

There are changes coming into effect at the end of this year for vehicles to be used as taxis. From 30 December 2020, a vehicle not previously used as a taxi, can begin to be used as a taxi provided

the vehicle:

- was manufactured less than seven years prior to the time it is to become a taxi, and
- meets the ANCAP five star safety rating.

To find vehicles that meet the ANCAP five star safety rating, go to: [www.ancap.com.au/safety-ratings](http://www.ancap.com.au/safety-ratings). Safety rating shows the level of safety a vehicle provides for occupants and pedestrians in a crash, and its ability— through technology — to avoid or minimise the effects of a crash.

Before a vehicle is used as a taxi, it must have passed regulatory inspection, have a class 6 MAIB insurance premium paid and a taxi licence plate attached to it.

## Supply of National Police Certificate and audit report

One way towards being a compliant operator is to supply National Police Certificates and audit reports before the due dates.

The due dates are on the accreditation certificate. To stop being late, set up electronic reminders.

Supply of a late National Police Certificate or audit reports is an offence.

## Taxi fare receipts

Taxi fare receipts have changed to be ready for the start of the capped limit on Taxi Smartcards for participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Receipts have changed for all taxi travel, not only passengers who are participants of the NDIS.

Receipts now show the words “CAP” and “USED”.

For now, there is no number next to “CAP” because the capped limit has not started.

There may be a number next to the word “USED” when the passenger holds a Taxi Smartcard. This number is the amount of taxi fare subsidy used on all taxi trips this year.



TARIFF:	01 SINGLE DAY
FARE	\$3.60
OTHER	\$0.00
EXTRAS	\$0.00
TOTAL FARE	\$3.60
TRIP FEE	0
TAS SUBSIDY	\$1.80
MEMBER FARE	\$1.80
APPROVED	00
<b>CAP</b>	
<b>USED</b>	<b>\$46</b>
Subsidy used excludes pending claims, e.g. unprocessed dockets	
*** DRIVER RECEIPT ***	
24/06/20 12:15 001717 1	

If a passenger believes the amount of taxi subsidy used as shown on their receipt is wrong, the driver should tell them to ring 1300 135 513.

The taxi industry and NDIS participants who hold Taxi Smartcards will be told before the cap begins.

## Driver ancillary certificate checking

Operators can check the status of taxi driver ancillary certificates online at any time using the tool available at:

[https://ptinfo.transport.tas.gov.au/ancillary\\_check.aspx](https://ptinfo.transport.tas.gov.au/ancillary_check.aspx).

It is recommended that operators include periodic online checks as part of their safety systems used under accreditation to help remain compliant.

## Taxi fare changes

Taxi fares are to be increased. A five percent increase will be implemented to take effect from the end of February 2021.

At the same time the credit card surcharge will decrease from ten per cent to five percent.

To enable the fare increase to take effect:

- a Fairway Plus taximeter (Cabcharge Taximeter) will automatically adjust by an over the air update, and
- a Schmidt Model G4 taximeter will require a manual adjustment by an authorised taximeter adjuster.

Information about when and how to have taximeters adjusted, and obtain a new taxi fare label will be sent to operators early in 2021.

## Taxi areas

A taxi journey must be wholly within, or start or end in the taxi area to which the taxi licence relates.

The driver and operator can be fined if a taxi operates out of area.

## Hobart Waterfront

The City of Hobart is launching the Safer Nights Partnership on Friday 11 December 2020. The Partnership recognises the importance of Hobart’s growing night time economy and providing a safe place for people to have fun.

An aim of the partnership is to reduce the impact of ride share and taxi noise in the waterfront precinct. Security guards will work proactively to encourage ride share and taxis not to congregate in Brooke Street and Despard Street.

Salamanca Market on Saturdays is a Hobart institution. Before the market each Saturday, Salamanca Place must be swept clean. Drivers need to move their taxis when they see an approaching street cleaner.

## Regulations and Concessions Unit

Contact us by e-mail:

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

### Recent questions asked by operators

#### Can passenger transport operator accreditation be put on 'hold'?

No, accreditation cannot be placed on 'hold'. If a National Police Certificate or audit report is not supplied on time, the conditions of accreditation need to be varied.

To vary a condition of accreditation, go to Service Tasmania to make an application and pay the fee of \$81.00.

#### Is accreditation transferable?

No, accreditation cannot be transferred to another person, business or entity.

### COVID-19

Borders are now open to all mainland States and Territories as well as New Zealand. To keep up to date with the situation in Tasmania go to: <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>.

### COVID-19 and 2020-2021 cruise ship season

The Australian Government restriction on entry of cruise ships into Australia is due to expire on 17 December 2020.

TasPorts continues to work with the cruise industry sector to plan for future resumption of cruises when it is safe and appropriate.