# **April 2022**











Newsletter

## Trial of new requirements to become a taxi driver

Until 14 May 2022 a trial is underway of a faster process for first time drivers to become authorised to drive taxis.

During the trial, new drivers will not be required to submit a National Police Certificate (NPC) or complete a medical upfront, enabling them to commence driving sooner. New drivers who participate in the trial will instead be notified when to submit these documents.

All trial participants are still required to apply for, and be issued, an ancillary certificate prior to driving a taxi, including completion of the mandatory training course, obtaining Working With Vulnerable People registration and payment of the required fee.

For more information contact dlu@stategrowth.tas.gov.au.

### Code of Conduct

Thank you for your contribution to the Taxi Industry Code of Conduct, which has been developed in consultation with the taxi industry.

The Code outlines the expected behaviours of taxi drivers.

The Code will be circulated to industry soon and will form the base for an industry specific training course.

## 5 Star ANCAP safety rating for new taxis

Taxi services must be safe, so the public has confidence in Tasmania's taxi industry.

ANCAP safety ratings (0 to 5 stars) indicate the level of safety a vehicle provides in the event of a crash, as well as its ability, through technology, to avoid or minimise the effects of a crash.

Recent changes to the Taxi Industry Regulations 2018 require that the responsible operator of a taxi licence must ensure vehicles used as taxis have an ANCAP safety rating of 5 stars.

This does not apply to:

- a vehicle that, on 30 December 2020, was being, or had previously been operated as a taxi, or
- a wheelchair-accessible taxi

You can check a vehicle's ANCAP rating at Car Safety Ratings | Car Safety | Crash Test Results | **ANCAP** 

#### Taxi licences

You can only legally operate a taxi if you are the responsible operator of a taxi licence.

If you lease a perpetual taxi licence you should have completed, signed and submitted a <a href="Notification of Commencement of Lease form">Notification of Commencement of Lease form</a> with the owner when you commenced the lease.

If you need to check that you are recorded as the responsible operator for a licence, email operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

If you are detected operating a taxi service when you don't hold, own, or lease a licence and aren't recorded as the responsible operator of that licence, you may be fined.

Don't forget you have to let us know when you have ended a lease. You can find forms under Operator Forms on the Transport Services website.

### **New Security Camera Approved**

The Streamax G60DT V2 system manufactured by Streamax Australia Pty Ltd has been approved by the Commission for use in Tasmanian taxis.

linstall Automotive is authorised to install, test and service the system. Iinstall Automotive and Jamil Rayhan (Taxi Combined Launceston) are also approved as download facility operators.

You can find a list of approved security camera systems and agents under <u>Security camera</u> <u>systems – approved taxi equipment</u> on the Transport Services website.

### Online checking tools

One of the responsibilities of an accredited operator is to ensure that their accredited service complies with all relevant laws. Taxis must be

registered with MAIB premium class 6, and drivers correctly licenced with an ancillary certificate to drive taxis.

State Growth has provided online tools so that you can quickly and easily check vehicle registration and the status of ancillary certificates.

#### To check:

- a vehicle registration, click here, and
- an ancillary certificate, click here.

A conviction for using or permitting a person to use an unregistered taxi will lead to the Commission considering whether the operator is a fit and proper person to continue to hold accreditation.

### Taxi inspections

From 1 October 2021 the requirement for taxis to be presented to an authorised inspection station for a <u>roadworthiness inspection</u> changed from six months to 12 months.

Taxis still need to have full <u>safety inspections</u> every six months or 10 000 kms, whichever comes first. Safety inspections must be carried out by a qualified mechanic, or a person assessed by a Registered Training Organisation as having the skills to undertake these inspections.

If the roadworthiness inspection and safety inspection is due at the same time, you don't need to have the safety inspection.

A roadworthiness inspection can replace a safety inspection. A safety inspection <u>cannot</u> replace a roadworthiness inspection.

### **Public Holidays**

Drivers can charge a higher tariff (tariff 2 for standard taxis and tariff 4 for WATs) between 6.00am and 8.00pm on public holidays.

Public holidays in Tasmania are prescribed in the Statutory Holidays Act 2000.

A full list of public holidays is on WorkSafe Tasmania's website.

A penalty applies to drivers who operate a taxi while the taximeter is operating on the wrong tariff for the hiring.

### **Regulations Team**

Contact us by e-mail at operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au.