



Borders opening and COVID-19

As Tasmanian borders open to all other states and territories on 15 December 2021, we would like to remind operators and drivers of their part in helping reduce the risk and spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Where possible, drivers should ask passengers to:

- sit in the back seat of the vehicle;
- handle their own luggage;
- avoid handshakes or any other close physical contact; and
- use contactless payments if possible.

Drivers should also try to avoid physical contact and maintain more than 1.5 metres distance from other drivers when not in their vehicles.

Where cash payment is required, drivers and passengers should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser afterwards.

Drivers on airport property must wear a mask.

If you or your drivers are feeling sick, please stay home and get tested.

To keep up to date with the latest information and advice go to coronavirus.tas.gov.au.

Check in TAS app

Reminder

All taxis are required to have a QR code for the Check in TAS app displayed as part of helping to keep on top of COVID.

Take this opportunity to make sure all QR codes in your taxis are printed clearly and functioning properly. You may need to reprint QR codes where necessary to make sure passengers can check in successfully.

More information can be found at:

www.business.tas.gov.au/coronavirus_information/check_in_tas_app.

Taxi Subsidy Program

The Transport Commission takes fraudulent behaviour against the Taxi Subsidy Program (TSP) seriously. The Department of State Growth undertakes regular audits of TSP transactions and may refer matters to Tasmania Police for further investigation or action. Recently, a taxi operator had their accreditation cancelled following a conviction for fraudulent behaviour relating to the TSP.

New Security Camera Approved

A new taxi security camera system has been approved for use in Tasmanian taxis. You can now use the TaxicamHD system manufactured by Taxicomms Australia Pty Ltd. Install Automotive is authorised to install the TaxicamHD system.

Security camera systems are installed for your protection as well as any drivers you engage to provide your service. Taxi security cameras are mandatory in some taxi areas to assist police.

To find more information about the approved security camera systems and who can install go to the Transport Services website [online](#).

Accreditation Standards

Accreditation Standards are designed to ensure the safety of drivers, passengers, the general public and operators of passenger transport services. The Accreditation Standards are divided into 3 modules:

Module 1: General Administration

This module includes record keeping and ensuring that you keep the Transport Commission up to date with the contact details and other details about your service.

Module 2: Vehicle Management and Administration

This module includes regular inspections, a fault reporting system and emergency management procedures.

Module 3: Driver Management and Administration

This module includes checks you need to undertake before you engage a driver, the records you need to keep, and ongoing monitoring of driver qualifications. It also includes

procedures that drivers need to be aware of, including passenger behaviour management, reportable incidents management and emergency management.

Full details of the taxi manual can be found on the Transport Services website [online](#).

Pre-departure inspections

To make sure you comply with the Accreditation Standards you must make sure that pre-departure inspections are conducted. Pre-departure inspections must be done each day before your taxi is driven. These inspections are important as they are a way of identifying faults early which then minimises the risk of vehicles being used when they are not roadworthy. A pre-departure checklist must be completed at the time of the inspection, and any identified faults or defects must be documented. In the event a fault is detected, the checklist should then be given to the appropriate person in your business so that the fault can be fixed.

Safety inspections

You must have systems in place to make sure safety inspections take place. Safety inspections are distinct and separate from the roadworthiness inspection requirement.

The Accreditation Standards require that all vehicles undergo a full safety inspection every 6 months or 10,000 km (whichever occurs first). These inspections are to be carried out by a qualified mechanic, or a person who has been assessed by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) as having the necessary skills to carry out these inspections.

These inspections are important to make sure that your vehicles are always roadworthy and mechanically sound.

Defect notices

When a taxi is issued a defect notice, it is an indication to the Transport Commission that the systems used by an operator may not be working.

Systems should make sure that taxis are not used on road when defective. Some things to do are:

- review the pre-departure checklist to ensure there is a place to record your findings for every item you need to inspect
- check drivers are aware of their responsibilities when performing a pre-departure inspection
- make any necessary improvements to the system to ensure conformance into the future, and
- tell employees / drivers about the improvements and ensure employees / drivers sign a form acknowledging that they are aware of and understand the procedures (these forms are kept with the records).

Regulations Team

Contact us by e-mail at

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