

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Information Bulletin – CPV09

Taxi licence

Introduction

A taxi is a vehicle approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director) that is fitted, equipped or constructed to carry up to 15 passengers.

A taxi is used to carry passengers with the services of a driver for hire or reward, and calculates the fare payable by the hirer through the use of a taximeter.

Requirements

To operate a taxi

- Government has placed a cap on the numbers of taxi licences in Darwin and Alice Springs and all new licences are administered through a ballot process in these regions. Eligibility and timing of each ballot is announced by Government.
- To operate a taxi, you must be accredited and hold a taxi licence issued under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* (the Act).
- To apply for operator accreditation, you will need to complete application form [CPVF01 – Commercial Passenger Vehicle Operator Accreditation](#), and submit it to your local Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) office along with the prescribed fee and supporting documentation. Please note that accreditation must be under an individual's name or a body corporate e.g. company. A taxi licence will not be issued to persons that hold joint operator accreditation.
- To apply for a taxi licence (outside of Darwin and Alice Springs), complete [CPVF02 – Application for a commercial vehicle licence \(CVL\)](#) and submit to a MVR office.
- Before a taxi licence can be issued, you must have your vehicle inspected by an Authorised Inspector or Transport Inspector and must ensure it complies with the [Northern Territory \(NT\) Taxi In-service Maintenance Standards](#).
- You must ensure you and any driver of your taxi meets the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) standards. Refer to [Information Bulletin CPV45](#) for current KPIs.
- You must make and maintain records relating to the operation of the taxi as set out in the Taxi Regulations 1992.
- If a taxi licence is expired for a period of more than three months it will be considered cancelled and will not be renewed. Cancelled taxi licences in the Darwin and Alice Springs regions will be made available through the ballot process.

To drive a taxi

To drive a taxi for the purpose of hire or reward, you must:

- 1) hold a current NT driver licence of an appropriate class;
- 2) hold a licence to drive a commercial passenger vehicle (CPV) – reflected as an ‘h’ endorsement on an NT driver licence;
- 3) be endorsed by a taxi network (or taxi operator where there is not a network), as meeting the approved training competencies;
- 4) ensure you meet taxi KPIs as outlined in Information Bulletin CPV45; and
- 5) hold a current NT CPV identity (ID) Card which is endorsed with the taxi category.

NOTE: Any person who drives a CPV must have zero blood drug and alcohol levels.

Operating conditions

- A person holding a taxi licence must also be the owner of the vehicle endorsed against that licence.
- There is provision to place a taxi licence on hold for a maximum period of three months, see form [CPVF39 – Application to Place an Existing Commercial Vehicle Licence on Hold](#). Note that conditions apply.
- A taxi is permitted to stand for hire in designated taxi ranks.
- A taxi is permitted to respond to hails, e.g. if a potential customer waves you down from the footpath you can pick that person up providing it is safe to do so.
- The annual fee for a taxi licence varies from region to region. The current licence fees for each region are:

Darwin	\$5,000	Alice Springs	\$4,000	Gove	\$1,500
Tennant Creek	\$1,500	Katherine	\$2,500	Jabiru	\$1,500
- A full payment of 12 months will apply to any new taxi licence that is issued. Following the initial 12 month period the option of 3, 6, 9 and 12 monthly payments are available.
- A person cannot operate a taxi in an area that is not specified in the taxi licence – some exceptions apply.
- You must have a taximeter fitted to the taxi that is tested and certified by an approved Taximeter Testing Officer every 12 months. The taximeter calculates the fare to be paid by the customer and drivers must not charge more than the amount on the taximeter when set to the correct rate.
- You must have an approved in-car security camera system fitted to the taxi that is tested and certified by an Authorised Person every 12 months.
- The holder of the taxi licence is to ensure that any injury to a person arising out of or in the course of the person’s engagement to drive the taxi endorsed on the licence is covered by a policy of insurance. This policy can either be held by the operator or the driver. It is both the operator and driver’s responsibility to ensure this insurance is current when operating.

- Any equipment, such as communication dispatch systems and taxi dome lights, must be fitted in accordance with the Taxi In-Service Maintenance Standards. An operator must not modify the vehicle without written approval by the Director.
- The operator of a taxi must not allow the vehicle to be made available for hire or reward if the vehicle is unsafe. A vehicle is considered unsafe if it is likely to endanger the safety of any person, the public or property. Some examples of where a vehicle may be considered unsafe include; frayed seatbelts, dislodged or damaged panels, faulty airbags, bald or damaged tyres and misaligned or damaged door seals. Operators should have appropriate systems in place to ensure their vehicles are maintained in a safe condition and continue to comply with the Taxi In-service Maintenance Standards.
- Drivers also play an important part with monitoring vehicle condition and must check the vehicle prior to commencing each shift. Where the vehicle is found to be unsafe, the driver must immediately report the issue to the operator for rectification and cease operating. Substantial fines apply to both operator and driver found operating an unsafe vehicle for hire or reward. The vehicle may also be defected, necessitating a full roadworthy inspection.

Northern Territory residency

It is a requirement of the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* (the Act) for a holder of a taxi licence to remain ordinarily resident in the Northern Territory (NT). The Act obligates the Director to cancel any taxi licence where the holder, being an individual, has not been ordinarily resident in the NT for more than six months.

For the purposes of the Act, 'ordinarily resident' is taken to mean the place where the licence holder normally lives in their settled day to day routine, and that time spent away from this place is of an exceptional nature or for an insignificant period. Licence holders may take leave outside of the NT which is exceptional in nature, providing it is not more than six months in duration.

The legal requirement for taxi licence holders to remain in the NT ensures they are actively engaged in the operation of their taxi and the local industry. Determination of residency is based largely on objective evidence and less so on a person's state of mind or preference.

Where the Director has reason to believe a taxi licence holder no longer ordinarily resides in the NT, the licence holder may be asked to provide evidence demonstrating that they still live in the NT. Evidence supporting a person's continued compliance with NT residency requirements can include:

- Recent receipts for goods such as grocery and petrol purchases made in the NT which identify you as the payee;
- Proof of recent employment, social security claims, medical appointments and/or regular recorded attendances at registered organisations in the NT;
- Rental or lease agreements which identify you as an occupier of an NT residence;
- Operator records of taxis operated by you, maintained at your principle place of business in compliance with provisions of the Act;
- Power and water accounts in your name relating to a property in the NT;
- Statutory Declarations made by your drivers detailing regular face to face meetings with you, including payments and end of shift takings ('pay-ins'); and
- Financial institution transaction reports showing purchases made by you in the NT.

Supporting evidence should demonstrate the licence holder has continued to live in the Territory over the life of the taxi licence or, at a minimum, for the past three years.

Similar obligations also exist for a taxi licence held by a body corporate, such as the requirement to maintain its principal place of business in the NT.

Where a taxi licence has been previously issued to two individuals (jointly held), at least one of those individuals must continue to live in the NT to satisfy residency requirements.

General information

Any person who operates or drives a taxi must comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations, Key Performance Indicator standards and any Code of Conduct pertaining to taxis.

Contact the CPV Branch for further information on the contact details below.

- For information on Substitute Taxis see Information Bulletin CPV14.
- For information on Multiple Purpose Taxis (MPT) see Information Bulletin CPV10.
- For information in taximeters and roof signs see Information Bulletin CPV08.
- For information on how to obtain a licence to drive CPVs ('h' endorsement) see Information Bulletin CPV05.
- For information on CPV ID Cards see Information Bulletin CPV18.
- For the Northern Territory Drivers Code of Conduct see Information Bulletin CPV32.
- Northern Territory Taxi In-service Maintenance Standards can be accessed through the webpage: www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry

For further information on Commercial Passenger Vehicles, visit www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry.

This Information Bulletin is a guide only and contains general information and requirements in relation to the CPV industry. This document should not be regarded as a strict interpretation of Northern Territory law and In-Service Vehicle Maintenance Standards.

Contact Details	
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Branch	
Telephone:	08 8924 7580
Email:	cpv.admin@nt.gov.au
Web:	www.nt.gov.au/driving
Postal Address:	GPO Box 2520, Darwin NT 0801