

Rideshare Licence (Special Passenger Vehicle)

Introduction

On 1 February 2018, a new regulatory model commenced which allowed Ridesharing services to operate in the Northern Territory (NT). A rideshare vehicle is an approved vehicle which offers a transport service to passengers through an approved rideshare platform. A rideshare platform offers a transport booking service through a smartphone application service which identifies both rider and driver.

A rideshare vehicle is used to carry passengers for the purpose of hire or reward with the services of a driver for a fare which is calculated through a smartphone app. Payment for the fare must be processed through the app; a driver of a rideshare vehicle must not accept payment directly from a passenger.

Applicants have the choice to apply as a driver only, as the owner of a rideshare vehicle, or both. There are different requirements depending on how you want to enter the ridesharing industry. This information bulletin provides an overview of these requirements.

Applications to become a driver and/or register a vehicle for ridesharing can be made online at www.nt.gov.au/ridesharing. Please note that applications can take up to 10 business days to be processed.

Also note that approval by the NT Government as a rideshare driver and/or a rideshare vehicle does not guarantee acceptance to a rideshare platform. It is suggested that persons seeking to commence operating in the ridesharing sector contact their preferred rideshare platform prior to applying to Government.

Requirements

Registering a Vehicle

- A vehicle intended for use as a rideshare vehicle must first be approved by the NT Government. The vehicle must be inspected at the Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) or by an Authorised Inspector as being roadworthy prior to applying and is subject to annual inspections. A person applying to register their vehicle for ridesharing must first pay the prescribed licencing and insurance fees. Refer to the Operating Conditions section below.

Note: If you wish to transfer your rideshare vehicle back to a private vehicle you will be required to have your vehicle inspected prior to re-registration. Refer to vehicle inspector's bulletin 19 for further information.

Becoming a Driver

- To drive a rideshare vehicle you must hold:
 - a) a current NT driver's licence;
 - b) an 'h' endorsement on your NT driver licence; and
 - c) a current NT CPV Identity Card (CPV ID Card) endorsed for Rideshare.
- Please refer to Information Bulletins *CPV05 How to Obtain an 'h' (Hire or Reward) Endorsement* and *CPV18 CPV ID Card Requirements*.
- Once approved, a rideshare driver may drive anywhere in the Northern Territory where a rideshare platform is approved to operate. Rideshare drivers must comply with all applicable

laws, including restrictions when operating within areas such as Restricted Alcohol Areas and defence force facilities.

- Any person who drives a CPV for hire or reward must have zero blood drug and alcohol levels. For rideshare drivers this includes all times while logged onto a rideshare platform, regardless of whether you have passengers in the vehicle at the time.

Operating Conditions

- A rideshare driver can only accept bookings through the use of an approved rideshare platform (smartphone app). Government approves each rideshare platform as a Communications and Dispatch Network. The register of approved rideshare networks can be found at:

www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry/communications-and-dispatch-networks/introduction

- You must ensure you and any driver of your rideshare vehicle complies with any driver agreement in place which is issued by the rideshare platform you are operating under.
- All rideshare drivers must be covered by a policy of insurance for any injury arising out of, or in the course of, the person's engagement to drive the rideshare vehicle. Refer to the Insurance section below for more details.
- You must keep records relating to the operation of each rideshare vehicle you operate as set out in the current Ridesharing Regulations and the conditions of the rideshare vehicle licence. These records must be provided to Government on request.
- The intended rideshare vehicle must comply with all requirements of the Ridesharing [In-Service Vehicle Maintenance Standards](#). A brief outline is provided within this section also.
- A rideshare vehicle cannot be more than nine years old and must display a Government issued label located on the passenger's side of the front windscreen at the bottom corner, or as close as is possible. The information on the label must be readable from the outside of the vehicle.
- A rideshare vehicle must undergo an annual roadworthy inspection by an Authorised Inspector. A link to the full list of authorised vehicle inspectors can be found under the Resources section below.
- A rideshare vehicle must not display advertising which is likely to indicate the vehicle is a rideshare vehicle or is available for hire or reward.
- The driver must have their CPV ID Card on them at all times when operating as a rideshare driver. The driver must produce their CPV ID Card on demand to an Inspector or Police Officer. There is no obligation to display the ID Card in the vehicle, however you may choose to do so as it provides passengers with a sense of assurance that they are being driven by an authorised driver.
- A rideshare vehicle licence is valid for 12 months from date of issue.
- The annual fee for a rideshare licence is \$300 regardless of the region. This allows the licence holder's vehicle to operate as a rideshare vehicle. This annual licence fee is in addition to the normal registration fees for a vehicle and is non-refundable.
- The operator of a commercial passenger vehicle 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, public safety or any 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.

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.

Insurance

- The holder of the rideshare 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 rideshare vehicle endorsed on the licence is covered by a policy of insurance. This policy can either be held by the rideshare platform, the vehicle owner or the driver, but it is the responsibility of all parties to ensure the policy is current.
- When transferring a vehicle from private use to a rideshare vehicle, the Motor Accident Compensation (MAC) insurance part of the registration will increase. You will be advised of the amount of MAC payable as part of the application process.

General Information

- Any person who operates or drives a rideshare vehicle must comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations, Standards and any Codes of Conduct pertaining to ridesharing.
- For information on how to obtain a licence to drive a CPV ('h' endorsement) refer to Information Bulletin CPV05.
- For information on CPV ID Cards refer to Information Bulletin CPV18.

Penalties

Drivers should be aware of offences in the Ridesharing Regulations and Commercial Passenger (Miscellaneous) Regulations, in particular:

- Smoking inside the vehicle is not permitted when the vehicle is operating as a rideshare vehicle.
- Purchasing of liquor for, or on behalf of, a passenger is not permitted.
- A driver of a rideshare vehicle must not:
 - Park or stand (rank) for work;
 - drop off or pick up passengers in designated ranks;
 - respond to ad hoc hails – all hirings must be procured through the use of an approved rideshare platform (app); and
 - tout for work.
- A driver must not refuse a passenger with an assistance animal from travelling in their vehicle.

Resources

Listed below are resources that may provide assistance to you.

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Information

Information Bulletins and Forms:

www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry/

Legislation:

www.legislation.nt.gov.au

Approved Networks:

www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry/communications-and-dispatch-networks/introduction

Motor Vehicle Registry Information

Information Bulletins and Forms:

www.nt.gov.au/driving

Authorised Inspectors:

www.nt.gov.au/driving/registration/authorised-vehicle-inspectors

Important

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 | |
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