

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Information Bulletin – CPV08

Taximeters and roof signs

Introduction

In accordance with the [Taxi Regulations 1992](#) and the [Taxi In-Service Vehicle Maintenance Standards](#), every taxi operated in the Northern Territory (NT) must be equipped with an approved roof sign and an approved taximeter.

Taximeter specifications

The Northern Territory Minimum Specifications for Taximeters (the specifications) sets out the requirements for in-service taximeters and includes responsibilities for persons involved with taximeter operation in the NT. These specifications have been approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director) under Part 4 of the Taxis Regulations 1992.

A taximeter which does not comply with the specifications must not be fitted to a taxi operating in the NT, meaning a taxi driver shall not operate a taxi on the road unless it is fitted with an approved taximeter as set out in this Information Bulletin (see Table 1). The taximeter must be in good working order and be tested and sealed by an approved testing officer (see Table 2).

The taximeter is to be adjusted to indicate only the fare payable in relation to the determination in force. Fares and charges must not exceed the gazetted maximum fares and charges.

Taximeter to be fitted to an approved vehicle

A vehicle used for hire or reward and operated as a taxi must be fitted with a taximeter. Once the taximeter has been approved by the Director for use in a taxi, operators may fit that taximeter into their vehicles.

Each taximeter fitted to a vehicle is required to comply with requirements set out in this Information Bulletin. These are:

- Have tariff indicator capabilities.
- Be capable of displaying, in easily discernible letters and figures the hire charge, the distance rate and the prescribed tariff.
- Be capable of being effectively sealed.
- Be capable of being fitted in a position and manner that is approved.
- Have the capability of computing and displaying the proportion of the fare which is to be charged to each passenger when the taxi is used as a multiple hire vehicle.
- Once fitted the taximeter shall be tested by actual use of the taximeter and if accurate be sealed by an approved testing officer.

A taxi driver and/or taxi operator may only operate a taxi for hire or reward without a taximeter fitted, if the Director approves that operation. This approval must be in writing.

Taxi areas

There are three main journeys that can take place within a taxi area and an explanation of each is listed below.

A taxi area is declared by the Minister and published in the Gazette. The taxi area is usually defined by a set radius from a known landmark or as in the Darwin taxi area, a specific point e.g. where a river and a road meet and then following the coast round until it joins an electoral boundary which then meets the first mentioned road. Three examples are provided below for information.

To view the declared taxi areas visit www.nt.gov.au/driving/industry/taxi-and-minibus-areas-in-the-nt.

Journey 1 – Travel takes place wholly within a taxi area.

All journeys that start and finish inside a taxi area, where no part of that journey is outside that taxi area, the driver of that taxi must operate the taximeter in accordance with the determination in force for the full period of that journey. The maximum fare charged must not exceed the value indicated on the taximeter.

Journey 2 – Part of which takes place inside the taxi area and part of which takes place outside the taxi area.

For the portion of the journey that takes place within the taxi area, the taximeter is to be operated in accordance with the determination in force. For the portion of that journey that takes place outside the taxi area, the taxi driver may negotiate the fare with the prospective passenger. This negotiation must take place prior to the journey taking place. The fare payable is the fare that has been agreed upon by both the passenger and driver.

For example, the passenger indicates to the driver the destination is 20 kilometres outside the taxi area. The driver states that the cost will be the metered fare inside the taxi area, in accordance with the determination in force and an additional \$30 for the journey outside the taxi area. If the passenger agrees, that is the total fare payable by the passenger for that journey.

The driver also has the option of leaving the taximeter on for the complete journey and charging a price up to the total value of the taximeter at the end of the journey.

Journey 3 – That takes place completely outside the taxi area.

For any journey which takes place outside the taxi area and which no part is undertaken inside a taxi service area, the payment for that journey is a negotiated fare, which is agreed upon by both the driver and the passenger.

These journeys may be undertaken without the taximeter being engaged, but the fare for the journey must be pre-negotiated prior to that journey starting. It should also be noted that the driver of the taxi may choose to engage the taximeter anyway and use that value as the required fare.

Each taxi is issued with a commercial vehicle licence (CVL) and that CVL will have the taxi area identified. Taxis are not allowed to operate in another taxi area. More information can be obtained from your local Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) or by reading the appropriate Act and Regulations.

Maintenance of taximeters

The operator of a taxi shall keep the taximeter in good working order and have it tested by an approved testing officer once every 12 months, or otherwise as requested by the Director. The taximeter certification must be provided to the CPV office via email to CPV.compliance@nt.gov.au.

The taximeter must also be tested by an approved testing officer, if following any alteration of the taxi or its equipment or for any other reason the taximeter fitted to the taxi is not registering correctly. It is also the responsibility of the operator to notify the Director immediately if this happens and must not permit that vehicle to operate for hire or reward until an approved testing officer certifies the taximeter as being correct.

Because the taximeter is required to be tested for accuracy by actual use of the taximeter in the vehicle, certified taximeters must not be transferred to other vehicles without full re-certification by an approved testing officer.

If the seal of the testing officer, which certifies that taximeter's accuracy, is for some reason broken, the operator must notify the Director immediately. If this happens, the operator must not permit that vehicle to operate for hire or reward until an approved testing officer certifies that taximeter.

Inspection of a taximeter

The operator of a taxi shall present the taxi for a taximeter test, by an approved testing officer, whenever requested to do so by the Director or an inspector.

Interference of a taximeter

A person, other than an approved testing officer or, a person who is an approved taximeter repairer, shall not interfere with a taximeter. The maximum penalty for such an offence is 25 penalty units.

Responsibilities

Operators

An operator of a taxi is responsible for ensuring that:

1. Any taxi operating under his / her accreditation has fitted to it, a taximeter that complies with the specifications, is functioning correctly, and which has been certified within the last 12 months;
2. He / she complies with their obligations under Part 4 of the Taxis Regulations 1992; and
3. All drivers of the taxi have had sufficient instruction on how to correctly operate the taximeter.

Testing Officers (Installer / Certifier)

A person who is approved as a Testing Officer for the purposes of testing and certifying taximeters must:

1. Ensure that each taximeter is fitted in accordance with the installation instructions provided by the manufacturer and that its fitment complies with the Taxi In-service Vehicle Maintenance Standards.
2. Install in a taxi, only a taximeter which meets the specifications.

3. Comply with the requirements of Part 4 of the Taxis Regulations 1992.
4. Only certify a taximeter which has been calibrated to the vehicle to which it is fitted, and which meets the programming and construction requirements of the specifications.

Taximeter Suppliers

It is the responsibility of each taximeter manufacturer or distributor to:

1. Ensure that each taximeter supplied by them to the NT market meets the specifications.
2. Have provision for the support and maintenance of the supplied taximeter models for a minimum of five years after cessation of production. This includes the supply of spare parts to authorised repairers / certifiers and providing technical support to the Director, Testing Officers and taxi operators.
3. Provide unique hardware, if any is required, at no cost to the Director to facilitate the retrieval of hiring records stored in the meter and any necessary documents required to facilitate such retrieval, e.g. operating / instruction manual.
4. Ensure any Testing Officer endorsed by the manufacturer is sufficiently trained to perform the specified work and is supplied with relevant updated information on an ongoing basis.
5. Advise the Director in writing (on company letterhead), of the intended supply of a complying taximeter which states:
 - a) the make and model of that taximeter;
 - b) that the taximeter meets the intent of this Information Bulletin;
 - c) that the taximeter meets the intent of Part 4 of the Taxis Regulations;
 - d) that the taximeter meets all requirements of the specifications;
 - e) that suitable training has been, or will be, provided to relevant persons in accordance with the specifications;
 - f) the supplier has in place provisions for technical support and spare parts; and
 - g) the declarant's name, position in the company and signature.

Notes: Where a taximeter supplier provides a statement in accordance with item 5 above, the Director will deem the taximeter as approved, unless contrary information deems it otherwise.

Where a taximeter supplier cannot provide a statement of full compliance with item 5 above, the supplier may specify particulars of the non-compliance/s for the consideration of the Director.

Where a supplier provides a statement of partial compliance only, the Director may at his/her discretion, having consideration to public interest and previous approvals, approve the taximeter.

Programming

A taximeter must be programmed in a way to:

1. Automatically set the tariff applicable to the time of day (Tariff 1 or 2).

2. Automatically revert to the tariff applicable to the time of day at the completion of any hiring involving a higher tariff.
3. Automatically include any Government approved levy.
4. Automatically set the tariff applicable to declared NT public holidays.
5. Accurately calculate (not more than) the selected tariff in accordance with the determination in force, i.e. must be programmed to correctly calculate tariffs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 for the area of operation.
6. Calculate and display the portion of the fare for the journey of each hirer if the taxi is used for multiple hiring.
7. Automatically reset the meter when the pause button is activated after the taxi has travelled a distance of not more than 100 meters. This means that:
 - a) when the vehicle is stationary, if the pause function is activated, the meter must recommence calculating the appropriate fare once the vehicle begins moving; and
 - b) the pause function cannot be activated whilst the vehicle is in motion.
8. Restrict any further calculation once the stop button is activated so that the meter must be restarted (cleared) before any further calculation can be performed, unless operating under the multiple hiring function.
9. Prevent the use or activation of any non-approved 'extras' function.
10. Be capable of integrating electronically with other electronic vehicle components, such as EFTPOS terminals and GPS devices (if not already integrated within the unit).
11. Be capable of being updated via wireless transmission, with applicable fare structures (flagfall, wait time, distance costs and a levy) in accordance with the determination that is in force.
12. Be capable of maintaining correct function, including accuracy of fare calculation, during all normal vehicle operating electrical voltages. Outside of this range, and where the meter is not capable of maintaining correct and accurate function, the meter must reset or power off.
13. Be capable of preventing a person from entering an amount higher than the (calibrated) calculation of the selected tariff and levy.
14. Be able to print an itemised receipt detailing each component of the fare including:
 - a) the taxi registration number;
 - b) the Australian Business Number (ABN) of the driver of the taxi for the journey;
 - c) the driver's identity number as issued to the driver of the journey by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics;
 - d) the fare and the amounts comprising the fare, including the fare total, the GST component, a levy, any extras and the amount paid;
 - e) the date and time at which the hiring started and finished; and

- f) the location at which the hiring commenced and the location at which the hiring was completed.

Construction

A taximeter must be constructed in such a way to:

1. Be capable of being effectively sealed against unauthorised alteration of programming.
2. Be capable of being installed in a position and manner in accordance with the requirements of the Taxi In-service Vehicle Maintenance Standards.
3. Be capable of being sealed by a testing officer so that when sealed, the internal part of the taximeter cannot be reached without the seal being broken.
4. Be capable of displaying in clearly discernible letters and figures (each being a minimum height of 12.5 mm), the selected tariff applicable to the journey.
5. Be capable of indicating in clearly discernible letters and figures (each being a minimum of 12.5 mm in height), the fare payable in relation to a hiring.
6. Be capable of indicating in clearly discernible letters and figures (each being a minimum of 12.5 mm in height), any applicable extras payable in relation to a hiring.
7. Have the capacity to electronically store for not less than six months, information on all fares undertaken. Stored information to be consistent with that prescribed in these requirements.
8. Have the facility for accessing electronically stored information such as records of hiring's.
9. Calculate the distance component of each fare only through the use of the vehicle's (OEM) speedometer system, i.e. transmission sensor / speedometer's electronic pulse.
10. Display a unique manufacturer's identifying (serial) number on the exterior face of the unit so it can be easily accessible when the taximeter is fitted to the vehicle.

Roof signs (dome light)

A taxi shall not operate unless it is fitted with a roof sign, which complies with the Taxi Regulations 1992. Roof signs have to be capable of being illuminated and have the word "TAXI" displayed on the front of it. It is also required to have two tariff indicator lights, which are operated by the driver when the taximeter is in operation.

The roof sign is also required to have a device that indicates to the driver, when seated, which light is operating on that roof sign. The colour of a roof sign is required to be approved by the Director prior to it being fitted to a taxi. White has been approved as a standard colour.

The taxi driver must not operate a taxi available for hire or reward unless the word "TAXI" on the roof sign is illuminated. When the taxi is engaged in a hiring the word "TAXI" must not be illuminated.

The taxi driver shall not operate a taxi, in relation to a hiring, unless the tariff indicator lights are illuminated to indicate the tariff being charged by that driver.

It is the responsibility of each operator and driver to comply with all relevant legal requirements associated with the daily use of a commercial passenger vehicle.

General Information

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

For Northern Territory legislation visit www.legislation.nt.gov.au

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 NT 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

Table 1: Approved taximeter suppliers

Approved Supplier	Models	Contact details
Cabcharge	FAREWAYplus FAREWAYplus II Europa	Phone: (02) 93329222 Email: merchants@cabcharge.com.au Web: www.merchants.cabcharge.com.au
Digitax	F2	Email: info@digitax.com Web: www.digitax.com
Schmidt	G4	Phone: (03) 9546 6990 Email: info@schmidt.com.au Web: www.schmidt.com.au

Table 2: Authorised taximeter testing officers

Authorised persons	Taximeter	Contact details
Darwin		
Daniel Lee Blue Taxi Company	Cabcharge	Phone: 8941 1258 Email: admin@bluetaxi.com.au
Leopold Lockhart Blue Taxi Company	Cabcharge	Address: 15 Finniss Street, Darwin City NT 0800
Stephen Hall Berrimah Taxis	Cabcharge Schmidt	Phone: 0417 831 955 Email: berrimahtaxis@bigpond.com Address: 22 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT 0828
Yaswant Sharma A2Y Auto Repairs	Cabcharge	Phone: 8984 3606 or 0437 495 396 Email: a2yautorepairs@gmail.com Address: 1/6 Downes Street, Winnellie NT 0820
Bilal Abbas A2Y Auto Repairs	Cabcharge	Phone: 0406 066 449 Email: bilalabbas05@gmail.com Address: 1/6 Downes Street, Winnellie NT 0820
Ranjithkumar Nagarajah KT Auto Care Pty Ltd	Cabcharge	Phone: 8947 0011 Email: admin@ktautocare.com.au Address: 22 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT 0828
Freddy Soo Hoo Freddy's Car Installations	Cabcharge Digitax	Phone: 8947 1881 or 0417 148 145 Email: freddyscarinstallations@hotmail.com Address: 2/51 Benison Road Winnellie, NT 0820
Alice Springs		
Parmvir Singh Budget Auto Repairs	Cabcharge	Phone: 0401 959 994 Email: alice.13cabs@hotmail.com Address: 7/66 Elder Street, Ciccone NT
Christopher Kupke Electrofix Electronic Repairs	Cabcharge	Phone: 0407 489 754 Email: electrofixelectronics@gmail.com Address: 13B Whittaker Street, Alice Springs NT 0870
Raymond Tebeck Ray Tebeck Auto Electrics	Cabcharge	Phone: 0418 892 994 or 8953 5324 Email: raytebeck9@bigpond.com Address: 279 North Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT 0870