



Taxi driver authority

The NSW Government is progressively introducing reforms to point to point transport, which includes taxis, hire cars and rideshare. The changes will provide more opportunities for drivers; improve safety and boost choice for customers.

The point to point transport sector is regulated to help keep customers safe, and all service providers, including taxi companies, booking services and drivers, have a major role to play.

All current and new taxi drivers have obligations under the current system which must be met. They are outlined in this factsheet.

Taxi service providers, booking service providers and drivers will have new obligations under the new regulatory framework and safety regime, which will begin later in 2017. All parties will be responsible for meeting the obligations that apply to them. The NSW Government will supply the information needed to allow everyone to understand what they need to do under the new framework.

Current obligations

To meet the current legal requirements, all taxi drivers must hold a valid taxi driver authority (DA) issued by Roads and Maritime Services:

- If you don't currently hold a DA of any kind, you can apply for a taxi DA by completing the [Application for an authority to drive a taxi form](#).
- If you currently hold another active DA issued by Roads and Maritime under the *Passenger Transport Act 1990*, you can apply for a taxi DA by completing the [Application for an authority to drive a taxi for holders of current DAs form](#).

If you use this form, you will need to provide proof of English language proficiency should you drive a taxi in the Sydney metropolitan area. For details see the [Factsheet – Proof of English competency for taxi drivers](#).

NOTE: *The validity of all taxi DAs was automatically extended to 31 October 2017. For more information see the [Factsheet – Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles driver authorities extended](#).*

To be eligible for a taxi DA you must

- Hold a NSW driver licence that is not a learner licence, probationary licence, provisional licence, restricted licence, driver licence receipt or conditional licence (other than a conditional licence with the sole condition of wearing contact lenses while driving)
- Have held an Australian driver licence that meets the above requirements for a total of at least 12 months in the two years preceding the application date
- Have arranged for a [National Police Check](#) to submit with your application. For details see the frequently asked questions on page three
- Provide proof of English language proficiency if you are driving a taxi in the Sydney metropolitan area. For details see the [Factsheet – Proof of English competency for taxi drivers](#)
- Complete a medical assessment – see page two for details.

Medical assessment

Complete a medical assessment using the forms below as they apply to you. For details see the frequently asked questions on page three.

- **Applicants aged up to 60 years** must complete a compulsory medical assessment of fitness levels by completing the [Medical assessment form – private hire vehicle and taxi-cab driver \(<60 years of age\)](#)
 - If a medical referral is required, have a medical practitioner complete a [medical assessment form for a public passenger vehicle driver](#)
 - If a further referral to a specialist is required, have the specialist complete the [medical specialist assessment form – public passenger vehicle driver](#).
- **Applicants aged 60 years or more** must have a medical practitioner complete a [medical assessment form for a public passenger vehicle driver](#) to submit with the application.
 - If a referral to a specialist is required, have the specialist complete the [medical specialist assessment form for a public passenger vehicle driver](#).

NOTE: *Ensure your medical practitioner or specialist completes all sections of the forms during your appointment.*

To apply for a taxi DA

To apply for a taxi DA, you need to submit your completed and signed application form along with the following:

- Two recent, identical, clear colour photos sized 65mm x 65mm showing your head and neck on a pale background without a hat or sunglasses. Passport photos are not acceptable
- Your original National Police Check
- Your proof of English language proficiency if you are driving in the Sydney metropolitan area
- The relevant medical assessment form(s)
- The \$45 application fee.

You can submit your application either by post or in person to the Enrolment Processing Unit at Roads and Maritime Services as follows:

Post to: Enrolment Processing Unit
 Roads and Maritime Services
 Locked Bag 5085
 Parramatta NSW 2124

In person to: Enrolment Processing Unit
 Roads and Maritime Services
 Level 4, 16-18 Wentworth Street
 Parramatta NSW 2150

NOTE:

- *If you are posting your form, you may pay via credit card or a cheque or money order payable to Roads and Maritime Services. If you are submitting your form in person, you can pay in cash.*
- *Incomplete applications will not be accepted by Roads and Maritime Services and will be returned to the applicant.*

Frequently asked questions

Medical assessment

Why is a medical assessment required?

To ensure that drivers carrying public passengers meet certain standards that demonstrate they are fit to drive safely.

What will happen to my application if I don't provide relevant information in my fitness to drive self-assessment?

Your application will be deemed incomplete. Incomplete applications will not be accepted by Roads and Maritime and will be returned to you.

Why are there different forms?

The standards for commercial drivers require a different level of assessment for applicants aged 60 years and over and this assessment must be completed by a medical practitioner.

National Police Check

How do I arrange a National Police Check?

The National Police Check can be applied for through:

- The NSW Police Force by visiting www.police.nsw.gov.au and going to the 'Criminal Records Section' to lodge an application online
- An Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission accredited broker organisation. For more information visit www.acic.gov.au and go to 'National police checks' or phone 02 9373 2199 to find an accredited broker.

How do I select a broker?

Roads and Maritime cannot suggest a preferred broker. You will need to select a broker yourself. It is important to note that some brokers provide services to particular client bases and as such, you should undertake relevant research to determine if a broker can service your needs.

How much will a National Police Check cost?

Your broker or the NSW Police Force will advise you of the cost. Roads and Maritime cannot advise costs.

How long will my check take?

Your broker or the NSW Police Force should be able to advise you when you could expect the check back. Contact your broker or the NSW Police Force if you have not received your check results or if you are unsure.

I have a National Police Check that was completed previously. Can I submit this or do I need to arrange a new one?

The National Police Check must have been conducted within twelve months of the date the taxi DA application is submitted for it to be valid.

Can I provide a photocopy of the National Police Check?

No. You must submit the original copy with your application.

Will my application be rejected if I have been charged with a criminal or driving offence?

Not necessarily. Roads and Maritime will assess all previous offences according to their nature and circumstance, on a case-by-case basis.

English language proficiency

You need to provide proof of English language proficiency if you are driving a taxi in the Sydney metropolitan area. See the [Factsheet – Proof of English competency for taxi drivers](#).

Can I still drive a taxi if I do not have proof of English language proficiency?

If you do not drive in the Sydney metropolitan area and you advise the Enrolment Processing Unit of this change in your application, and a taxi DA is issued to you, you can drive a taxi. However, you will not be permitted to drive in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Driving history

Do I need to provide details on my driving history?

No. Roads and Maritime will complete a driving history check on your behalf. If you held an interstate licence in the past five years you will be required to provide a driving history from that state and/or territory. Please note you are required to declare traffic infringements on your application.

Wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) drivers

What do I need to do to become a WAT driver?

You must successfully complete training in the care and transport of people with physical disabilities. To gain a WAT endorsement on a taxi DA in metropolitan areas, a driver must have held a NSW taxi DA for six months. In regional areas the six month period does not apply.

To satisfy the training requirement, a driver needs to complete either of the following courses with a registered training organisation:

- Transport passengers with disabilities – Unit of competency TLIC3011
- Provide wheelchair accessible taxi services to passengers with disabilities – Unit of competency TLIC2040

Roads and Maritime is aware of the following registered training organisations currently offering the training:

- **13 Cabs** (offers TLIC2040)

Contact the 13 Cabs Driver Training Administration team:

Email drivertraining@13cabs.com.au

Phone 02 9020 2726

Training is currently offered at:

Sydney: 2/9–13 O’Riordan Street, Alexandria

Newcastle: 5/8 Channel Road, Mayfield West

13 Cabs has advised it will explore additional venues in 2017

- **TAFE NSW** (offers TLIC3011)

Phone 1300 628 233

Enquire at rightpath.northcoasttafe.edu.au

Training programs available across NSW on demand

On completion, a driver will be issued a statement of attainment from the registered training organisation.

The statement of attainment needs to be submitted to the Enrolment Processing Unit at Roads and Maritime along with two recent, identical, clear colour photo sized 65mm x 65mm of the head and neck on a pale background without a hat or sunglasses.

Passport photos are not acceptable.

One photo must be signed by a Justice of the Peace (JP), or the applicant must deliver the photos personally and be sighted by a Roads and Maritime employee.

You can submit your WAT straining statement of attainment by either by post in person to the Enrolment Processing Unit at Roads and Maritime as follows:

Post to: Enrolment Processing Unit
 Roads and Maritime Services
 Locked Bag 5085
 Parramatta NSW 2124

In person to: Enrolment Processing Unit
 Roads and Maritime Services
 Level 4, 16-18 Wentworth Street
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Once you receive a taxi DA

What do I do with my taxi DA once I receive it?

Whenever you are driving a taxi, you must display your Taxi Driver Authority inside the taxi-cab so the front of the card can be easily seen by any passenger.

To learn more about point to point transport operators

- Visit www.transport.nsw.gov.au/pointtopoint
- Get in touch with the dedicated Transport for NSW point to point information contact centre on 1300 767 923 or email pointtopointinfo@transport.nsw.gov.au.