



Drivers transitioning to the new regulatory framework

From 1 November 2017, the new *Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016* (the Act) and *Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Regulation 2017* (the Regulation) will come into effect, along with the powers of a new industry regulator, the Point to Point Transport Commissioner. The Act and the Regulation will create a regulatory framework that will allow for a more competitive and flexible point to point transport industry.

As part of the changes, all taxi, private hire vehicle and tourist vehicle (motorcycle and 4WD) driver authorities issued by Roads and Maritime Services will cease to have effect at midnight on 31 October 2017. Drivers who hold a valid driver authority at this time will be automatically transitioned to the new regulatory framework. This includes driver authorities that have been extended and show an old expiry date.

These drivers will receive a letter from Roads and Maritime advising that they will automatically have a Passenger Transport licence code added to their driver licence record. Drivers will not receive a new driver licence displaying the code; instead, the code will be printed on their driver licence the next time it is renewed.

A blood alcohol content limit of 0.02 applies when providing a passenger service

Under the *Road Transport Act 2013* all point to point transport drivers must not exceed a 0.02 blood alcohol content (BAC) limit when driving a vehicle being used to provide a passenger service. Under the Regulation, the driver of a hire vehicle that is being used to provide a passenger service must also ensure that a retroreflective sign is displayed on the vehicle to indicate that it is a hire vehicle. The Passenger Transport code and signage will help indicate to NSW Police that the 0.02 BAC limit applies. Some service providers may require a zero BAC for drivers, and drivers should ensure they understand all their obligations.

Who does this fact sheet apply to?

Any drivers who hold a valid taxi, private hire vehicle or tourist vehicle driver authority at midnight on 31 October 2017 (even if the driver authority shows an old expiry date but provided it has not been suspended or cancelled for any reason).

Why is this happening?

These arrangements have been made to make it easier for current authorised drivers to transition to the new regulatory framework.

Why do I need a Passenger Transport licence code?

Under the new framework, authorised service providers may have a requirement for drivers to maintain the Passenger Transport licence code as part of complying with the safety standard relating to driver medical fitness.

The medical requirements for a Passenger Transport code will be managed within the driver licensing regime. That means that while you have a Passenger Transport code recorded on your driver licence, any declared medical condition you have will be assessed at the commercial medical standards as detailed in the Austroads 'Assessing Fitness to Drive' medical standards for licensing. Please note that you are required by law to declare to Roads and Maritime any medical condition that may affect your ability to safely drive. On renewal of your driver licence, you may be required to undertake an eye test to ensure you meet the standard applicable to commercial vehicle drivers.

How will my service provider know I have the Passenger Transport licence code?

Taxi and booking service providers will have access to a new *Driver Vehicle Dashboard*, which has been developed by the Point to Point Transport Commission to assist industry to meet its safety obligations. Service providers may use the *Driver Vehicle Dashboard* to check drivers have a Passenger Transport licence code. They must obtain consent from drivers to do this check.

Will I get a new driver licence?

No, you will not receive a new driver licence displaying the Passenger Transport licence code. Instead the code will be printed on your driver licence the next time you renew your licence.

Is there anything else I need to do from 1 November 2017?

Drivers will need to continue to satisfy a minimum driver licence tenure requirement and not be convicted of any disqualifying offences, however, checking these requirements will no longer be the responsibility of Roads and Maritime.

More information about requirements for drivers is on the Point to Point Transport Commissioner website at pointtopoint.nsw.gov.au

What are the commercial medical standards?

The commercial medical standards for drivers carrying public passengers are specified in the national medical standards for licensing, called 'Assessing Fitness to Drive'. If you are a point to point transport driver you must meet these standards. Under the Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Regulation 2017, drivers must declare to Roads and Maritime any known medical conditions outlined in the standards that may affect your ability to drive safely.

If you have declared a medical condition, you will be assessed at the commercial medical standards. This means you will be subject to an annual medical assessment. Roads and Maritime will write to you to advise you when your next assessment is due.

If you have completed a medical self-assessment indicating that you do not have a medical condition, you are not required to undertake an annual medical assessment.

If your circumstances change and you develop a medical condition that must be declared under the law, you must notify Roads and Maritime by visiting Service NSW to obtain a medical assessment form that must be completed by your treating doctor.

What if I don't want the Passenger Transport licence code?

If you no longer wish to be a point to point transport driver after midnight on 31 October 2017, you may visit Service NSW or a Roads and Maritime Services registry and request removal of the code at no cost. You can do this after 1 November 2017.

To learn more about point to point transport

1. Visit the Roads and Maritime website at rms.nsw.gov.au. Select 'Business & Industry' then 'Point to point transport'
2. Visit the Point to Point Transport Commissioner website: pointtopoint.nsw.gov.au
3. Visit the Transport for NSW website: transport.nsw.gov.au/pointtopoint
4. Contact Transport for NSW Point to Point Information with any questions:
 - Phone 1300 767 923 (Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm, excluding public holidays)
 - Email pointtopointinfo@transport.nsw.gov.au