

## **Explanatory Memorandum**

**(This note is not part of the instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation.)**

These Regulations consolidate provisions in relation to the following:

- Confirmation of existing fees payable for the grant, continuation in force or renewal of licences in respect of small public service vehicles (SPSVs). By virtue of section 50(1) of the Taxi Regulation Act 2003, licence fees accrue to the Commission for Taxi Regulation (Commission);
- Confirmation that the Commission may grant licences in respect of SPSVs and their drivers.
- Revocation of the power of local authorities to fix maximum taxi fares which is now a function of Commission under section 42 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2003;
- Confirmation that a person may not operate more than one SPSV licence in respect of a single vehicle and that no two or more persons may operate a SPSV licence in respect to a single vehicle. On change of ownership of a SPSV, the SPSV licence lapses and the existing licence-holder has until the date of expiry of the licence within which to transfer that licence to another vehicle. If the licence-holder fails to transfer that licence to another vehicle before the date of expiry of the licence, the licence will expire on that date.
- tamper-proof disc requirements;
- in-vehicle information requirements;
- The obligation not to unreasonably refuse a fare that is not more than 30 kilometres;
- Taximeter requirements in relation to fares;
- Requirements in relation to technical specifications in relation to the fitting and operation of taximeters;
- The circumstances in which a booking fee may not be charged;
- Requirements in relation to appointed stands;
- Obligations in relation to carrying a guide or assistance dog;
- Requirements in relation to taxi or wheelchair accessible taxi receipts;
- Requirements in relation to hackney or limousine receipts;
- Requirements in relation to local knowledge;
- Obligation on passenger not to consume food or drink;
- Form of insurance certificate;
- Taxi roof sign requirements;
- Driver identification requirements;
- Prohibition on advertising on hackneys or limousines;

In addition, they:

- Remove the necessity to apply to the District Court to restore a SPSV licence that has lapsed for in excess of six months;
- Expressly prohibit hackneys and limousines from standing for hire or plying for hire;
- Provide that a taxi licence may not be restored if it has not been renewed within five years of the date of its expiry date.

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