

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES
METER AND RECEIPT INFORMATION
REVISED NATIONAL MAXIMUM TAXI FARE
Effective from 1st November 2008

Introduction

Following a full review of the existing National Maximum Taxi Fare, the Commission has made a revised Maximum Fares Order under Section 42 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2003. The changes reflect the increased costs of owning and operating a taxi since the National Maximum Taxi Fare was implemented in September 2006. The revisions to the fare are:

- An increase in the standard and premium initial charges and subsequent tariffs of some 8%
- Following the initial premium rate charge an increase to premium rate Tariff C for Christmas Eve 20.00h to St. Stephen's day 8.00h and 20.00h New Year's Eve to 8.00h New Year's Day to address under supply on those days
- An increase in the soiling charge from €125 to €140
- Extra charges for booking fees and extra passengers remain unchanged

The changes will mean that the initial charge displayed when a customer hires a taxi will be €4.10 (standard rate) or €4.45 (premium rate). The new National Maximum Taxi Fare will come into operation on the 1st November 2008 and drivers will have a three-week period from that date to ensure that their taximeters are calibrated with the new fare.

This document provides technical guidance to meter programmers, installers and other interested parties in relation to meter and other related information.

Copies of this document, but also other information on the National Maximum Taxi Fare, including a general explanatory guide are available from the Commission's website at www.taxiregulator.ie; or by phoning the Commission's Industry Information Line at 1890 347 347.

Meter Programming Information

The structure of the fare includes an initial charge that contains both a time and distance allowance. Further travel beyond the initial charge will be based on a graduated structure of three tariffs. The graduated structure will allow all journeys to be appropriately charged. Journeys that are short in distance and duration will be subject to Tariff A, the lowest rate. For medium length journeys, the latter stages of the trip will be charged at a higher rate: Tariff B. Very long journeys will have the end of the trip charged at Tariff C, the highest rate.

The standard fare structure will operate by day, while a premium will be attached to travel during unsocial hours. Certain extras will also apply, two of which will be recorded on the meter (additional passengers and booking fee).

A diagram illustrating the main components of the new fare structure and rates is provided below. **This is a simplification of the fare to assist presentation and awareness for the consumer and should not be used for programming. All metered components of the fare are calculated and displayed in advance.**

National Maximum Taxi Fare <small>Effective from 1 November 2008</small>				
Standard rate		Premium rate		Extras <small>Where relevant</small>
8.00h–20.00h		20.00h–8.00h & Sundays & public holidays*		Booking fee €2.00 .
INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs	€4.10 Fixed	INITIAL CHARGE Includes 1km or 170 secs	€4.45 Fixed	Extra adults: second and additional passengers €1.00 each.
TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €18.70	€1.03 per km or €0.36 per min	TARIFF A Next 14km or 40 mins Up to €23.45	€1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	Extra children under 12: 1 free 2 or 3 €1.00 4 or 5 €2.00 6 or 7 €3.00 .
TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €38.90	€1.35 per km or €0.48 per min	TARIFF B Next 15km or 42 mins Up to €47.05	€1.57 per km or €0.55 per min	Road toll charges as incurred.
TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €38.90	€1.77 per km or €0.63 per min	TARIFF C Over 30km or 85 mins Over €47.05	€1.77 per km or €0.63 per min	Soiling charge €140.00 .
Distance rate applies unless speed drops below 21 km/h when time rate applies.		*A special premium rate applies between Christmas Eve 20:00h to St. Stephens Day 08:00h and New Years Eve 20:00h to New Years Day 08:00h. During these periods Tariff C is applied immediately after the premium rate initial charge.		

The technical appendices to this document provide schedules on the appropriate parameters for meter programming.

In addition to recording and displaying the appropriate fare, there are other obligations on taxi-operators that relate to the programming of the meter:

- 1 Change of hours from Summer Time to Winter Time to be observed on all meters
- 2 The inclusion of specified public holidays
- 3 Minimum information for inclusion on the mandatory printed receipt.

Cap on extras

The meter should be set to allow extras to be added to a maximum of €9.00. This equates to the maximum extras that could be charged on the meter under the new National Taxi Fare structure (based on a journey involving a booking fee and seven additional passengers, where the vehicle is licensed to carry up to 8 persons).

It should be possible for the driver to remove any extras applied in error from a particular fare.

Premium rate

The premium rate will apply between the hours of 20.00 and 08.00 Monday to Saturday, and all day on Sundays and Public Holidays as defined under the Working Time Act 1997 and set out below.

Table: Public Holidays 2008-2013

Public holidays are defined as follows:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1 January for New Year's Day	Tues 01	Thu 01	Fri 01	Sat 01	Mon 02	Tues 01
2 March (for St. Patrick's Day)	Mon 17	Tue 17	Wed 17	Thu 17	Sat 17	Mon 18
3 March (for Easter Monday)	Mon. 24					
April (for Easter Monday)		Mon. 13	Mon. 05	Mon. 25	Mon. 09	Mon 01
4 May (first Monday)	Mon. 05	Mon. 04	Mon. 03	Mon. 02	Mon 07	Mon 06
5 June (first Monday)	Mon. 02	Mon. 01	Mon. 07	Mon. 06	Mon 04	Mon 03
6 August (first Monday)	Mon. 04	Mon. 03	Mon. 02	Mon. 01	Mon 06	Mon 05
7 October (last Monday)	Mon. 27	Mon. 26	Mon. 25	Mon. 31	Mon 29	Mon 28
8 December (for Christmas Day)	Thu. 25	Fri. 25	Sat. 25	Mon. 26	Tues 25	Wed 25
9 December (for St. Stephen's day)	Fri. 26	Mon. 28	Mon 27	Tue. 27	Wed 26	Thurs 26

The meter should be programmed for the maximum duration possible. The Commission will review the National Taxi Fare at least every two years, however no assumption should be made as to whether or not the fare will change resulting from any such review.

Special rate for Christmas and New Year

The Commission has considered applications for a higher rate to apply for Christmas Day and New Year's Eve given supply constraints on these days. A new rate has been set from 20.00 hours on Christmas Eve to run to St. Stephen's Day at 08.00 hours; and again from New Year's Eve at 20.00 hours to run to New Year's Day on 08.00 hours.

During these times, the meter should go from the premium rate Initial Charge directly to Tariff C (i.e. skip Tariffs A and B).

Tariff operation at time changeover

- Charges change from Standard to Premium table rates and vice versa mid-trip except for Initial Charge.
- Except for Initial Charge, when evening time (20.00h) triggers the change from Standard to Premium table rates, the meter should operate at the same tariff band in the corresponding table, this means the change must be based on time/distance elapsed not fare total, i.e. at 20.00h change from A Standard to A Premium, B Standard to B Premium, or C Standard to C Premium. The subsequent change from tariff bands A to B or B to C also follow on time/distance.

3 When morning time (8.00h) triggers the change from Premium to Standard table rate, vice versa as in 2 above.

Note: The running totals given in the tables in the technical appendices to not take account of changing from one rate table to another.

Receipt details

Under current regulations it is an offence for a taxi driver not to provide a printed receipt to all taxi customers on payment of the taxi fare in the format prescribed below. Printers should therefore be set to automatically print a receipt for all taxi journeys. Taxi receipts should print the following information at a minimum:

- 1 The receipt number (this should be sequential)
- 2 The SPSV licence number;
- 3 The unique vehicle identifier (registration number)
- 4 The start date of the trip;
- 5 The distance travelled in kilometres;
- 6 The start and finish time of the trip;
- 7 The amount calculated by the meter (broken down into total fare and extras), and
- 8 A space highlighted for the manual recording of tips/discounts/tolls, e.g.

Tips / discounts / tolls: _____

A space to allow calculation of final amount paid (to allow deduction of discounts or addition of tips or tolls) may be added to the receipt if desired, for example:

Total paid: _____

Deadline for programming of new National Taxi Fare

It is a legal requirement for all licensed taxi vehicles to ensure that their meter has been programmed with the revised fare and other mandatory information as outlined in this document. The revised fare cannot be charged without the meter being updated. In recognition of the operational demands a fare change places on the industry, there will be a three week period after the effective date (Saturday 1st November 2008) in which operators can use the old fare structure. However, it will be an offence to operate a taxi vehicle after Friday 21st November 2008 without a taximeter calibrated to calculate the revised National Maximum Taxi Fare.

It is advised that where possible, taximeters are programmed in advance to automatically switch over to the new fare structure on 1st November 2008.

Testing and verification of new meter programmes

The Commission has worked closely with the Legal Metrology Service to ensure the technical

guidelines provided in this information sheet are in compliance with the Legal Metrology Service's current and anticipated regulations to support national and European statutory requirements.

Once a meter seal has been broken for any reason including re-programming it is a statutory obligation that the meter be verified by Legal Metrology as soon as reasonably possible.

Taximeter installers should arrange an appointment with the Legal Metrology Service to secure approval of new meter programmes prior to any actual re-programming or installation of new programmes takes place, by contacting **Legal Metrology Service's verification centre** at Poppintree as per previous years:

Legal Metrology Service
Poppintree Industrial Estate
Ballymun
Dublin 11
Tel: + 353 1 864 3848

Further information

Queries in relation to the programming of the new taxi fare or any other information contained in this information leaflet can be addressed to:

The Commission for Taxi Regulation,
35 Fitzwilliam Square,
Dublin 2,
Ireland.
Telephone: 1890 347 347
Fax: +353 1 6593801
Email: commission@taxiregulator.ie
www.taxiregulator.ie

It should be noted that this explanatory leaflet is designed to give practical guidance in relation to the programming of the new national taxi fare that will be given effect by regulation. It does not purport to be a legal interpretation of the relevant legislation.

Technical Appendices:

Notes:

- All fares are calculated and displayed in advance

Table: Standard Fare

Standard Fare	
Applies 08.00 hours to 20.00 hours	
Initial Fare	
Monetary Value	€4.10
Distance Allowance	1,000.0 metres
Time Allowance	170.0 seconds
Tariff A	
Monetary Unit	€0.20
Distance Allowance	194.20 metres
Time Allowance	32.973 seconds
Hourly Rate	€1.84
Rate per km	€1.03
Tariff A initiated at switch of running total from	€4.10
to	€4.30
Range of Tariff A	€14.60
Graduates to Tariff B when running total switches from	€18.70
to	€18.90
Maximum Unit Increments on Tariff A	73
Range of Tariff A when charged only on distance	14,176.6 metres
<i>Mileage of journey elapsed when switching to Tariff B</i>	15,176.6 metres
Range of Tariff A when charged only on time	2,407.0 seconds
<i>Range of Tariff A when charged only on time (mins)</i>	40.12
<i>Mins of journey elapsed when switching to B</i>	42.95
Tariff B	
Monetary Unit	€0.20
Distance Allowance	metres

	148.10	
Time Allowance	25.157	seconds
Hourly Rate	€8.62	
Rate per km	€1.35	
Tariff B initiated at switch of running total from	€18.70	
to	€18.90	
Range of Tariff B	€20.20	
Graduates to Tariff C when running total switches from	€8.90	
to	€9.10	
Maximum Unit Increments on Tariff B	101.0	
Range of Tariff B when charged only on distance	14,958.1	metres
<i>Mileage of journey elapsed when switching to Tariff C</i>	30,135	metres
Range of Tariff B when charged only on time	2,540.9	seconds
<i>Range of Tariff B when charged only on time (mins)</i>	42.35	mins
<i>Mins of journey elapsed when switching to C</i>	85.30	mins
Unit Increments on Tariff B if you didn't allow for the excess over 15km travelled on initial charge and Tariff A	102.0	
Tariff C		
Monetary Unit	€0.20	
Distance Allowance	113.00	metres
Time Allowance	19.188	seconds
Hourly Rate	€7.52	
Rate per km	€1.77	
Tariff C initiated when running total switches from	€8.90	
to	€9.10	
Tariff C applies for the remainder of the journey		

Table: Premium Fare

Premium Fare		
Always applies 20.00 hours to 08.00 hours & all day Sunday and public holidays except Christmas and New Year		
Initial Fare		
Monetary Value	€4.45	
Distance Allowance	1,000.0	metres
Time Allowance	170.0	seconds
Tariff A		
Monetary Unit	€0.20	
Distance Allowance	148.10	metres
Time Allowance	25.157	seconds
Hourly Rate	€28.62	
Rate per km	€1.35	
Tariff A initiated at switch from	€4.45	
to	€4.65	
Range of Tariff A	€19.00	
Graduates to Tariff B when running total switched from	€23.45	
to	€23.65	
Maximum Unit Increments on Tariff A	95.0	
Range of Tariff A when charged only on distance	14,069.5	metres
<i>Mileage of journey elapsed when switching to Tariff B</i>	15,069.5	
Range of Tariff A when charged only on time	2,389.9	seconds
<i>Range of Tariff A when charged only on time (mins)</i>	39.83	mins
<i>Mins of journey elapsed when switching to B</i>	42.67	mins
Tariff B		
Monetary Unit	€0.20	
Distance Allowance		metres

	127.40	
Time Allowance	21.632	seconds
Hourly Rate	€3.28	
Rate per km	€1.57	
Tariff B initiated at switch of running total from	€23.45	
to	€23.65	
Range of Tariff B	€23.60	
Graduates to Tariff C when running total switches from	€47.05	
to	€47.25	
Maximum Unit Increments on Tariff A	118.0	
Range of Tariff B when charged only on distance	15,033.2	metres
<i>Mileage of journey elapsed when switching to Tariff C</i>	30,102.7	
Range of Tariff B when charged only on time	2,552.6	seconds
<i>Range of Tariff B when charged only on time (mins)</i>	42.54	mins
<i>Mins of journey elapsed when switching to C</i>	85.21	
Unit Increments on Tariff B if you didn't allow for the excess over 15km travelled on initial charge and Tariff A	118.0	
Tariff C		
Monetary Unit	€0.20	
Distance Allowance	113.00	metres
Time Allowance	19.188	seconds
Hourly Rate	€3.52	
Rate per km	€1.77	
Tariff C initiated when running total switches from	€47.05	
to	€47.25	
Tariff C applies for the remainder of the journey		

Table: Special Premium Rate

Special Premium Rate for Christmas & New Year	
A special premium rate applies between Christmas Eve 20:00h to St. Stephens Day 08:00h and New Years Eve 20:00h to New Years Day 08:00h. During these periods the Premium Tariff C is applied immediately after the Premium Initial Charge	
Initial Fare	
Monetary Value	€4.45
Distance Allowance	1,000.0 metres
Time Allowance	170.0 seconds
Tariff C	
Monetary Unit	€0.20
Distance Allowance	113.00 metres
Time Allowance	19.188 seconds
Hourly Rate	€7.52
Rate per km	€1.77
Tariff C initiated when running total switches from	€4.45
to	€4.65
Tariff C applies for the remainder of the journey	

Table: Extra charges where relevant

Extra metered charges (where applicable)	
Booking fee:	€2.00
Each additional passenger after the first passenger:	€1.00 per additional adult passenger (or per each additional two children under 12)