

Country and Regional wheelchair accessible taxi conditions

Definitions

In these conditions:

alternative price notified fare rates means fare rates that are, or are less than, the maximum fares or hiring rates to be charged in respect of the taxi-cab in accordance with Division 5AB, Part VI of the Act;

electronic transaction terminal means any electronic terminal or user interface that has been approved by the TSC to electronically process Multi-Purpose Taxi Program transactions;

Multi-Purpose Taxi Program or **MPTP** is the program providing subsidised taxi transport for persons with a severe and permanent disability, administered by the TSC;

MPTP card means a current taxi subsidy card issued by the TSC to an MPTP member;

MPTP member means the passenger entitled to the subsidised taxi transport in accordance with the MPTP and to whom an MPTP card has been granted; and

standard fare means former regulated Country and Regional zone fare rates determined in May 2014 (*Taxi Fare Determination 2014*).

Words that are defined in the Act or in Regulations have the same meaning in these conditions as in the Act, unless the context provides otherwise.

Conditions

1. The licensed vehicle must be a wheelchair accessible taxi-cab and must be operated so as to give priority at all times to passengers in wheelchairs.
2. The licence holder must ensure that the original or a legible copy (either in paper or electronic form) of the certificate issued by the TSC as evidence of the grant of the licence is kept inside the licensed vehicle at all times.
3. The licence holder must, at all times:
 - (a) ensure that the licensed vehicle is maintained in a roadworthy condition; and
 - (b) ensure that the original or a legible copy (either in paper or electronic form) of –
 - (i) a current annual certificate of roadworthiness with respect to the licensed vehicle; or
 - (ii) current evidence that the vehicle has passed an inspection process approved by the TSC; is kept inside the licensed vehicle and produced to an officer of the TSC when requested.
4. **The licence holder must, within seven days of changing the licence holder's contact address, notify the TSC in writing of the changed contact address.**
5. **The licence holder must notify the TSC in writing that the licence holder is no longer the owner of the licensed vehicle within seven days of ceasing to be the owner of the licensed vehicle.**
6. The licensed vehicle must be fitted with an electronic transaction terminal.
7. The licensed vehicle must not be used, or permitted to be used to carry passengers unless:
 - (a) the electronic transaction terminal is switched on; and
 - (b) the driver is logged on to the electronic transaction terminal for the duration of the hiring, so that the electronic transaction terminal records - prior to and for the duration of each hiring - the identity of the driver of the vehicle, except in the event of a failure or malfunction of the electronic transaction terminal system which prevents acceptance of the transaction.
8. The licensed vehicle must be fitted with a TSC approved interface that maintains a direct and continuous electronic connection between the fare calculation device and the electronic transaction terminal.

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Conditions continued

9. All taxi fares charged under the MPTP must be processed using the electronic transaction terminal, except:
 - (a) in the event of a system related failure or malfunction of the electronic transaction terminal which prevents acceptance of the transaction; or
 - (b) where the MPTP member has a disability that prevents that member from independently being responsible for his or her membership card and the card is held by that member's carer at the trip start location.

If either of these exceptions apply, a paper voucher may be prepared on commencement of the trip and the metered fare must be entered on the voucher on completion of the trip.

10. An MPTP card must be accepted as part payment of the taxi fare in accordance with the MPTP terms and conditions.
11. Interstate vouchers for subsidised taxi travel issued under a taxi user subsidy program in a State or Territory other than Victoria must be accepted as part payment of the taxi fare in accordance with the terms and conditions, including subsidy rates and trip value limits, described on the relevant taxi subsidy program voucher.
12. Where the MPTP pays an additional subsidy known as the 'wheelchair lifting fee' in conjunction with the carriage of one or more MPTP members who use a wheelchair as a mobility aid, the driver at the time the journey was made must receive at least two thirds (2/3) of the total lifting fee/s. The lifting fee/s must not be charged to, or collected from, the MPTP member or hirer.
13. Subsidies claimed through the MPTP scheme must be calculated as follows:
 - (a) If the fare displayed on the fare calculation device is calculated from the standard fare, the fare subsidy will be paid at 50% of the fare shown on the fare calculation device; and
 - (b) If alternative price notified fare rates are used to calculate the fare displayed on the fare calculation device, the subsidy amount must be able to be calculated at 50% of a fare determined by the use of the standard fare.
14. On processing an MPTP subsidy, the taxi payment terminal must generate a receipt that shows:
 - (a) in the case of a fare displayed on the fare calculation device referred to in condition 13(a), the breakdown of the fare, including the amount payable by the passenger after netting off the subsidy amount; and
 - (b) in the case of a fare displayed on the fare calculation device referred to in condition 13(b):
 - (i) the actual fare shown on the fare calculation device;
 - (ii) a fare that would have applied using the standard fare;
 - (iii) the subsidy amount based on 50% of a fare determined using the standard fare; and
 - (iv) the amount payable by the passenger after netting off the subsidy amount.
15. The licensed vehicle *may* be fitted with a taxi-cab security camera system if:
 - (a) the taxi-cab security camera system has been approved by the TSC;
 - (b) the TSC requirements to install and operate a taxi-cab security camera are complied with; and
 - (c) signage on the licensed vehicle alerting passengers to the presence of a security camera operating inside the vehicle is visible and maintained in a good condition.
16. If a taxi-cab security camera system is fitted to the licensed vehicle in accordance with condition 15:
 - (a) the operator of the licensed vehicle must not operate the licensed vehicle or permit the licensed vehicle to be operated unless the taxi-cab security camera system is fully operational; and
 - (b) the driver of the licensed vehicle must not operate the licensed vehicle unless the taxi-cab security camera system is fully operational.