

Any costs associated with reprogramming taxi-meters to reflect the notified fares are a matter between the taxi operator and the respective meter manufacturer.

Guidance notes that provide more detail about implementing particular aspects of Price Notification will progressively be made available on the TSC website. These will cover:

- setting of fares and hiring rates
- competition and consumer law issues
- use of the TSC's electronic notification system
- meeting passenger notification requirements.

Multi Purpose Taxi Program

Operators who price notify will still be eligible to claim fare subsidies under the Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP) and continue to obtain the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) lifting fee (when this is applicable).

The MPTP subsidy will be paid at 50 per cent of the formerly regulated country fare rate (as determined in April 2014). If an operator charges above this rate for MPTP members, the operator must ensure:

- the meter can calculate the formerly regulated country rate, as well as the price notified rate
- the MPTP subsidy is 50 per cent of the formerly regulated country rate
- the MPTP member pays the balance of the fare (which will be more than 50 per cent of the notified fare)
- the driver can provide a fare receipt to the MPTP member to indicate why the difference may be more than 50 per cent of the fare.

The TSC is contacting disability organisations, and MPTP members, from mid June 2014 to advise of the changes to the fare setting scheme for country and regional taxis.

Learn more about other changes to the industry, your rights and responsibilities.



For more information on price notification visit taxi.vic.gov.au/price-notification



DPL/7670_S046_24_05/14

PRICE NOTIFICATION



TAXI
SERVICES COMMISSION

From 30 June 2014, taxi operators (to be known as Permit Holders) in country and regional areas can set their own maximum fares.

The Taxi Services Commission (TSC) website features an application called the Price Notification System. Operators and Network Service Providers (to be known as Taxi Booking Services) can notify the TSC of any changes to their fares through the application.

It also enables the public to search for the fares offered by operators, to compare fares between different taxi operators.

What is Price Notification?

With the introduction of the new regional and country zones from 30 June 2014, the current system of maximum fare regulation in these areas will be replaced with a Price Notification System.

Regional and country taxi operators have the ability to set their own maximum fares, providing they notify the TSC and passengers of these fares.

All operators' fares, including those for operators that don't notify new fares, will be published on the TSC's website.

The Price Notification System does not apply to taxis with a licence to operate in metropolitan or urban zones.

More information is available in the recently released document *Price Notification System – Design and Requirements May 2014* is available on the TSC website.

Why have a Price Notification System?



The Price Notification System is designed to:

- encourage more industry competition and help deliver better, more innovative services to passengers.
- offer operators greater flexibility to set a range of fares based on their specific business or passenger needs.

For example, during quieter periods, operators may choose to offer lower rates to encourage more passengers to use their taxi services.

The system will also enable passengers to research and compare fares of different operators.

How do you price notify?

The TSC has developed an electronic lodgement and publication system for notifying fares that can be accessed from the homepage of the TSC website.



If operators wish to continue to charge the last regulated Country fares, they do not need to notify the TSC.

Operators (or nominee on their behalf) will need to log in to the Price Notification System to enter their new fares. The System will publish the new notified fares within five business days. Notified fares cannot be charged until they are published on the TSC website and operators have informed passengers by notices visible on the inside and outside of the taxi, and taxi-meters have been calibrated (as a minimum).

Who can price notify?

Regional and country taxi operators can directly notify the TSC through the Price Notification System and advise their passengers of their notified fares.

Operators will need to display fare notices on the inside and outside of their taxis and calibrate taximeters, the system allows operators to “future publish” new fares well in advance of the date they will come into effect. Any time that operators wish to increase their maximum fares, they will need to submit a new notification to the TSC and to update passenger notices and taximeters accordingly.