

30th October 2009

To whom it may Concern

This letter is intended to help reduce delays in obtaining an ancillary certificate to drive a Taxi-cab, and clarify the process for completing a taxi driver training course.

To obtain an ancillary certificate (Taxi), a person must meet eligibility requirements, and:

- ❖ Complete an application for an ancillary certificate to drive a taxi-cab.
- ❖ Satisfactorily Complete a commercial drivers health assessment
- ❖ Obtain a satisfactory National police check on traffic or criminal convictions (not more than **one** month old)
- ❖ Submit the completed (ancillary certificate) application, commercial driver's health assessment, and national police check to Service Tasmania, and obtain a letter of approval from Transport Safety, Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources (DIER).
- ❖ Obtain a *Certificate of Competence* (to drive a taxi-cab), by completing an approved taxi driver training course provided by Driver Safety Services.
- ❖ Present their *Certificate of Competence* to Service Tasmania for issue of an ancillary certificate (Taxi).

Lengthy delays in obtaining an ancillary certificate have occurred, where applicants have had to wait many weeks for their National police check to be returned and letter of approval obtained from DIER, and then having to wait several more weeks to attend a taxi driver training course.

This need not be the case.

It is not necessary to wait for your letter of approval from DIER before attending a training course.

Applicants are urged to book onto a training course before applying for a national police check.

In many cases, this will mean you will have completed your training course before, or soon after your police check has been returned and a letter of approval issued by DIER, avoiding delays in obtaining an ancillary certificate, and eliminating the need for a temporary permit.

It must be noted however that where an applicant completes their training before obtaining a letter of approval from Service Tasmania, that:

- ❖ A *Certificate of Competence* will not be issued by Driver Safety Services, until a letter of approval from DIER has been sighted.
- ❖ Course fees will not refunded, should their application for an ancillary certificate be rejected.

- ❖ A person with any form of criminal record or who has traffic convictions should contact the 'Transport Enquiry Service' on 1300 851 225, to obtain advice as to whether their police check will be satisfactory

Temporary permits

Temporary permits (to drive a taxi) are currently issued DIER, to persons who have been approved for issue of an ancillary certificate, but who have not yet completed an approved taxi driver training course.

Before applying for a temporary permit, an applicant must satisfactorily complete a commercial drivers health assessment, and wait for their national police check to be returned.

In most cases, a temporary permit would not be required if training was completed while waiting for a national police check.

It is our understanding that a temporary permit authorises the holder to drive a 'standard' taxi only, and does not authorise the holder to drive a wheelchair access taxi (WAT).

A person intending to apply for a temporary permit to drive a WAT, will be required to complete at least the wheelchair access taxi component of the training course.

In this case it is even more important for applicants wishing to drive wheelchair access taxis to book and complete their training while waiting for their national police check to be returned.

Training courses

Driver Safety Services schedules training courses regularly in Hobart, Launceston and Ulverstone.

Courses are now being scheduled every three weeks in Hobart, and every six weeks in Launceston and Ulverstone (the approximate time taken to obtain a national police check).

Additional courses are scheduled where necessary to satisfy additional demand.

For further information, or clarification of the above, please contact:

Stephen Harris
Operations Manager (Driver Skills Training)
steve.harris@driversafetyservices.com
(03) 62485570 0409485467