



# Notice for passengers

## Point to point transport driver authorities extended

### Taxi and private hire vehicle driver authorities extended to 31 October 2017

#### Drivers are encouraged to carry this notice in their vehicle to show customers if required

Roads and Maritime Services has extended the validity of all current taxi and private hire vehicle driver authorities to 31 October 2017.

The extension has been granted in preparation for the transition to the *Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016*, which will begin later in 2017.

Changes are being made to the industry to improve safety and choice for customers, provide more opportunities for the industry as a whole and allow all modes of point to point transport to compete fairly.

#### What is a driver authority?

A driver authority (DA) is an authority issued by Roads and Maritime to public passenger vehicle drivers. For taxi drivers and private hire vehicle drivers that have been driving for some time, the DA is a card that includes a photo of the driver, a unique Roads and Maritime issued identification number and the expiry date of the authority.

Private hire vehicle DAs issued from 16 May 2016 contain the same information, except for the photo, and are issued electronically.

#### What is the purpose of a driver authority?

Driver authorities (DAs) are used to verify the holder is considered to be fit and proper and of good repute. Taxi and private hire vehicle drivers (which includes rideshare drivers) are required to have a DA with them whenever they are providing public passenger services.

Fines apply if a driver does not have their DA with them when they are driving passengers.

#### What has changed?

The extension means that any current taxi and private hire vehicle DAs with an expiry date after 18 December 2015 and prior to 31 October 2017 remain valid to 31 October 2017.

Although drivers will be in possession of what appears to be an expired taxi DA card or private hire vehicle DA (either as a card or an electronic document), the DAs are actually valid until 31 October 2017.

The new expiry date has been automatically updated in the Roads and Maritime system. Drivers do not need to apply for the extension, and there is no renewal fee.

#### How do passengers know if a driver is authorised?

Taxi drivers are required to display their DA card so it can easily be seen by passengers in the vehicle. Private hire vehicle drivers (which includes rideshare drivers) are not required to display their DA though passengers can ask a driver to show their DA.

Roads and Maritime recommends private hire vehicle drivers make their DA available for inspection by passengers if requested.

A driver must provide the DA for inspection by an authorised officer if requested. Authorised officers include Roads and Maritime Compliance and Enforcement Officers and NSW Police.

#### More information

Roads and Maritime Services [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/public-passenger-vehicles](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/public-passenger-vehicles)

Transport for NSW [www.transport.nsw.gov.au/pointtopoint](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/pointtopoint)