



2023-2024 Hobart Cruise Ship Season

The cruise ship season has commenced with 56 cruise ships scheduled to be docked at the Port of Hobart between 20 September 2023 September 23 and 23 April 2024.

Tas Ports have made available parking areas which are set aside as a taxi rank and a drop-off-pick up area for private passenger vehicles including ride-source vehicles.

To view the cruise ship schedule, you can visit the Tas Ports website at <https://tasports.com.au/cruise>

Soliciting for trade

Taxis can be hired on demand by passengers from a taxi zone (rank), by being hailed or booked.

Taxi drivers are not allowed to solicit passenger trade on a public street. It doesn't matter if the driver is inside or outside the taxi, whether the taxi is moving or stationary or whether the engine is on or off.

The Transport Commission has received reports of taxi drivers asking people if they need a taxi including at the Hobart airport where passengers

waiting at the public pick-up area are being approached by taxi drivers.

This is illegal and drivers who are identified will be fined.

A reminder that if a taxi is standing or parked in a public street when it is not for hire, the driver must prominently display a sign stating 'not for hire'.

Managing taxi drivers

Accredited taxi operators have a responsibility to ensure their drivers are aware of their policies and procedures as well as their legal duties and responsibilities.

Effectively managing drivers and keeping them well informed is an on-going responsibility for an accredited taxi operator which extends beyond the taxi course that drivers are required to complete to obtain their ancillary certificate.

Are your drivers aware of their legal duties to:

- take reasonable care of their own safety and that of their passengers
- to comply with your instructions to ensure the taxi is safe
- not behave in an offensive manner in or around the taxi
- help passengers to get in and out of the taxi
- to turn on the taxi meter when a trip starts and not to charge more than the metered fare

- not to discriminate against a person with a disability by refusing to transport an assistance animal

The Accreditation Standards require that operators must keep records of drivers' signed acknowledgement of their awareness of procedures (page 14 of the accreditation manual). Remember that the Accreditation Standards are the minimum standards required and you should develop your safety systems so they are appropriate for your service.

If you have any questions about drivers' duties or would like to discuss how you can improve your safety systems, contact the Regulations Team at operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Dash cameras in taxis

The use of dash cameras in Tasmanian taxis was previously unlawful under the now-repealed *Taxi Industry Regulations 2018*.

On 26 June 2023 the *Taxi Industry Regulations 2018* were replaced by the *Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Regulations 2023*. The new regulations do not prohibit the use of dash cameras in taxis.

While this legislative change opens a path for the use of dash cameras in taxis, federal and state legislation relating to privacy and the use of recording devices still applies and must be considered.

Taxi operators are strongly advised to seek independent legal advice about the use of recording devices in taxis before fitting such devices.

What you need to know about leasing perpetual taxi licences

A perpetual taxi licence can be leased. A lease is an agreement between the licence owner and an

accredited operator (lessee) for the use of that licence to operate a service.

The licence owner must notify the Commission within 14 days of commencing a lease of the licence.

When the Commission is notified of the commencement of a lease, the Register of Licences is updated to record the lessee as the responsible operator of the licence.

The responsible operator is legally responsible for the taxi service operated under the authority of the licence.

A person who does not hold accreditation cannot be recorded as the responsible operator of a licence. If there is no lease or responsible operator, the licence owner is the person who is legally responsible for that licence.

Both parties to a lease must notify the Commission when the lease finishes.

Wheelchair-accessible and owner-operator taxi licences cannot be leased.

Commencing use of a new taxi

A reminder that if you commence the use of a new taxi vehicle for your service, you need to notify the Transport Commission.

Notifications can be made easily online at:

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/public_transport/industry_and_operator_information/taxi_hire_vehicles_and_ride_sourcing/taxi/notify_new_taxi

Regulations Team

For further information on any of the topics in this newsletter, or any other information, contact us by email:

operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au