Fact Sheet

Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme for Participants and Taxi Drivers

# Information for Participants

Participants of the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) must comply with the terms and conditions of the scheme as stated in the scheme information booklet, including that:

* TTSS dockets must only be used by the participant whose name and account number is on the TTSS docket
* Participants must not sell, exchange, lend or give away TTSS dockets
* One TTSS docket can be used for 50% of the fare up to a maximum fare subsidy of $60 where the total fare is up to $120, participants must pay the remaining 50% of the fare. Where the fare is over $120 participants must pay the unsubsidised part of the fare between $60 and the total fare.
* Participants should advise the driver at the start of the trip that they are using a TTSS docket to pay the fare to ensure that driver turns the taxi meter on.
* Unless the participant is unable to sign, the participant should complete all information on the TTSS docket before handing into the driver.
* TTSS dockets issued to participants fall into two classes – M40 TTSS dockets are issued to people that travel on a seat in the vehicle. M50 TTS dockets are issued to people that travel in their wheelchair and cannot transfer to a seat in the vehicle.

Additional TTSS information can be found at <https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/ways-to-get-around/taxi-hire-vehicle/taxi-subsidy-scheme>

# Taxi Drivers obligations for TTSS passenger trips

## M40s and M50s

* The Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Regulation 2017 requires that the taxi driver must use the fare calculation device (meter) for the hire where the fare is subject to payment using a TTSS docket, even where the journey has been booked (clause 81(2), maximum penalty $1,100).
* Taxi drivers are permitted to charge waiting time for a TTSS participant who is not ready to commence a booked journey; for passengers travelling in wheelchairs, waiting time must not be charged while the wheelchair is being loaded or unloaded.
* A taxi driver should only complete a TTSS docket or interstate TTSS docket if the participant is unable to do so and is not accompanied by a companion or other person. The taxi driver should write P.U.T.S. (Passenger Unable to Sign) in the passenger’s signature box.

## M50s

* Clause 26 requires the taxi driver of a wheelchair accessible taxi to be competent in loading and unloading wheelchair passengers and to transport them in a safe manner in accordance with the passenger’s disability.
* Taxi drivers are not to start the fare calculation device before the wheelchair passenger is loaded and secured in the taxi and the taxi is ready to safely transport the wheelchair passenger and any companions (clause 82(1), maximum penalty $1,100).
* Taxi drivers are to stop the fare calculation device when the wheelchair accessible taxi stops at the hirer’s destination (unless it is terminated sooner (clause 82(2)), meaning a wheelchair passenger cannot be charged while being unloaded from the taxi.
* Taxi drivers are only eligible to claim the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Driver Incentive Subsidy (WATDIS) for trips undertaken in a wheelchair accessible taxi using TTSS M50 dockets.

Additional information for taxi drivers can be found at [www.pointtopoint.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pointtopoint.nsw.gov.au)

# Using TTSS dockets for multiple hires and shared rides

## Multiple Hires

When a passenger shares a taxi with a stranger, each passenger will be charged up to 75% of the maximum fare to their destination. This is known as a multiple hire.

Provisions in relation to multiple hiring in taxis are contained in the Point to Point Transport (Fares ) Order 2018 under the *Point to Point transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016:*

‘Multiple hiring’ means an amount payable from each hirer to the taxi driver if the taxi driver has accepted separate hirings from 2 or more persons concurrently and:

(a) all of the hirers commence the hiring of the taxi at the same time, and

(b) each of the hirers agrees that the taxi driver may accept the other hirings, and

(c) all of the hirers are travelling to destinations in the same general locality or the same general direction.

Note: A taxi driver must not accept separate hirings from 2 or more persons concurrently otherwise than in accordance with this definition

Multiple hiring means the taxi driver gets paid more for the trip but each hirer pays less, and can get to their destination more quickly without having to wait for another taxi to arrive.

In the case of multiple hires where the hirers are TTSS participants, the taxi driver may charge each passenger 75% of the total fare and, after the discount is applied, accept a TTSS docket for up to 50% of each passenger’s fare to a maximum subsidy of $60 per passenger.

## Example 1 Multiple hire

Jason, a TTSS participant takes a taxi from Sydney Airport to Circular Quay. At the same time Cameron, a second TTSS participant wants to go to Central Station. Jason and Cameron agree to multiple-hire the taxi as they are heading in the same direction.

When the taxi arrives at Central Station the fare shown on the meter is $24. The second hirer, Cameron is charged $18 (75% of $24). Cameron uses his TTSS docket to cover 50% of this fare ($9) and pays the balance ($9) with his own money.

The taxi driver continues on to Circular Quay. When the taxi arrives the taxi fare shown on the meter is $36. Jason, the first hirer has to pay $27 (75% of $36). Jason uses his TTSS docket to pay 50% of this taxi fare ($13.50) and pays the balance ($13.50) with his own money.

‘***This is a multi hire***’ should be written in a prominent position on the TTSS docket.

## Shared rides

When a group of friends, family or workmates travels together to one destination, it is considered a single shared ride, not a multiple hire.

For shared journeys where the passengers are all using TTSS dockets the driver can accept a TTSS docket for up to 50% of each passenger’s share of the total fare, to a maximum total subsidy of $60 across all passengers on a shared journey.

**Examples of shared fare between friends, family or workmates**

**Example 2a Shared Fare is $120**

Olivia (TTSS Passenger 1) books a taxi to travel from North Sydney to Parramatta but will pick up her friend Jasmine (TTSS Passenger 2) from Lidcombe. When the taxi arrives at Lidcombe, the taxi driver pauses and then restarts the taxi meter once Jasmine has entered the taxi. The TTSS participants have agreed between themselves that Olivia will contribute 60 per cent of the metered taxi fare and Jasmine will pay the remaining 40 per cent. When the taxi arrives at Parramatta, if the metered fare is $120, Olivia will pay $72 ($36 to the taxi driver and $36 using their TTSS docket) and Jasmine will pay $48 ($24 to the taxi driver and $24 using their TTSS docket). Total taxi fare subsidy paid by TfNSW on the $120 taxi fare equals $60 ($36 + $24).

**Example 2(b) – Shared fare is $140**

Using the same agreement rates above, if the taxi fare is $140, Olivia will pay $84 ($48 to the taxi driver and $36 using their TTSS docket) and Jasmine will pay $56 ($32 to the taxi driver and $24 using their TTSS docket). Total taxi fare subsidy paid by TfNSW on the $140 fare equals $60 ($36 + $24). This is in line with the maximum fare subsidy being $60 per journey.

# Fares for maxi-cabs and the TTSS

Maxi-cabs can carry up to 11 passengers depending on the type of vehicle.

An amount of up to 150% of the maximum taxi fare may be charged where the maxi-cab is hired at a rank or hailed on a street (or where a booked trip is covered by TTSS) and there are 5 or more passengers. It is up to the passengers to decide how to distribute the total taxi fare amongst themselves.

If one or more of the passengers in a maxi-cab is a TTSS participant, they can use their TTSS docket to cover up to 50% of their share of the total taxi fare, to a maximum total subsidy of $60.