

FAQs on Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Permits

What is a Public Service Vehicle (PSV)? Public Service Vehicles (PSV's) are vehicles that carry passengers for hire or reward, and are separated into two categories:

- Large Public Service Vehicle - LPSV (Vehicle capable of carrying more than eight passengers i.e. Buses)
- Small Public Service Vehicle - SPSV (Vehicles capable of carrying a maximum of eight passengers - Taxi's, Hackney's and Limousines)

What is a PSV Inspection? A PSV inspection is where a Garda PSV officer checks the vehicle to make sure it is fit to carry public passengers and meets with all the safety regulations. For example; are the walkways wide enough? Are there enough emergency exits etc. An Garda Síochána is responsible for PSV Inspections. For further information on PSV Inspections or contact details for your local PSV Officer, please contact the [Carriage Office of An Garda Síochána](#).

What is an RSA Special Permit and why is it needed? There are times when a public service, may not fully meet Irish Road Traffic Regulations. For example: the layout of emergency exits is different in Irish Law than it is in EU Law. Under such circumstances, the PSV officer will request that the RSA grant a special permit to allow this vehicle to be used on Irish Roads in its current state.

What types of vehicles need a special permit?

- Type Approval Permit for New and imported minibus e.g. Ford Transit, Mercedes Sprinter
- Omnibus/Standee/Open-top Bus e.g. Dublin Bus, Airport Bus
- Land trains and other unusual vehicles e.g. Viking splash tours, party limos etc.

How do I apply for a special permit?

Please submit the following documentation which relates to your vehicle/permit type to: vehiclestandards@rsa.ie

Documents required for Specific Permits*	Type Approval	Standee / Omnibus	Land Train / other
Confirmation from your PSV Inspector that a permit is needed	✓	✓	✓
Signed Declaration by Owner	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Vehicle Registration Certificate (VRC)	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Vehicle Import Receipt (if applicable)	✓	✓	
Copy of Cert of Conformity (CoC)	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Roadworthiness Cert (if applicable)	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Cert of Original Fitness (COIF)	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Seatbelt certification	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Route Licence issued by the National Transport Authority (NTA)		✓	✓
Copy of Trailer Licence Cards (both sides) from the Motor Tax Office			✓
Weight, length and height of vehicle combination			✓
A4 Route Map as agreed with Local County Council and National Transport Authority		✓	✓
Confirmation letter from Local County Council confirming that the proposed route has been accepted		✓	✓
Modifications Report (if applicable)		✓	✓

***Please note that additional documentation may be requested by the RSA as appropriate**

What is a modifications report? If the vehicle has been modified in any way (e.g. seats removed or added) a modifications report, certified by the original manufacturer or a properly qualified person such as a mechanical engineer, must be submitted. A modifications template can be downloaded from the following RSA webpage [here](#).

I just imported my vehicle so don't have a Vehicle Registration Certificate, what should I do? If you don't have your vehicle registration certificate yet, the Vehicle Import Receipt will suffice instead. This only applies to *imported* vehicles.

My Vehicle's Registration Certificate (VRC) has not been issued yet. What should I do? For newly registered *Irish* vehicles only, we will accept a copy of the Vehicle Registration Form as proof of registration.

Is there an expiry date for special permits? Yes, expiry dates differ depending on the type of vehicle. The expiry date for your vehicle will be clearly outlined on the permit itself. There is no expiry date for Type Approval Permits.

Are seatbelts required on Omnibus / Standee Buses? No, unless such vehicles are used for the organised transport of children (i.e. 3 or more children on a dedicated trip) as set out in [SI No. 367 of 2011](#).

Can agricultural tractors be used to pull a land train? Please email vehiclestandards@rsa.ie with any specific or technical questions you have on Land Train Permits.