

FAQs on Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Permits

RSA

What is a public service vehicle (PSV)? It is a vehicle that carries passengers for hire or reward and is separated into two categories:

- **Large public service vehicles** - capable of carrying more than eight passengers e.g. buses
- **Small public service vehicles** - capable of carrying a maximum of eight passengers e.g. taxis, hackneys and limousines.

What is a PSV inspection? A Garda PSV officer checks the vehicle to make sure it is fit to carry passengers and that it meets with all the safety regulations e.g. are the walkways wide enough; are there enough emergency exits? etc. For further information contact your local PSV [Carriage Office](#).

What is an RSA special permit and why is it required? There are times when a public service vehicle may not fully meet Irish road traffic regulations e.g. the layout of emergency exits which is different in Irish law than EU law. Under such circumstances the PSV officer will request the RSA to grant a special permit to allow this vehicle to be used on Irish roads in its current state. See table at end of this document.

What type of vehicles need a special permit?

- Pre-type approval permit for new and imported minibus e.g. Ford Transit, Mercedes Sprinter
- Standee permit for omnibus, standee or open-top bus e.g. Dublin Bus, Airport Bus
- Land train and other unusual vehicle permit e.g. Viking Splash Tours, party limos etc.

Is there an expiry date for special permits? Yes. Expiry dates differ depending on the type of vehicle and this will be clearly outlined on the permit itself, however there is *no* expiry date for pre-type approval permits.

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

I imported a vehicle and it does not have a vehicle registration certificate (VRC), what should I do? If you do not have a VRC the vehicle import receipt will suffice with application. This only applies to *imported* vehicles.

My 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 when applying for a permit.

Can agricultural tractors be used to pull a land train? For any specific or technical questions on land train permits email vehiclestandards@rsa.ie.

What are the regulations on the requirement for an emergency stop function in new buses to obtain a LPSV licence? Under [S.I.No. 192 of 2017](#) of Road Traffic Large Public Service Vehicles Licensing Regulations 2017 it requires that where a vehicle has been granted type approval, such vehicles are deemed to have met the criteria to qualify for a LPSV licence from An Garda Síochána.

How do I apply for a special permit? You will need to submit the following documentation as required to vehiclestandards@rsa.ie.

Documents required for Special Permits*	Pre-Type Approval	Standee or Omnibus	Land Train	Other
Confirmation from PSV Inspector that permit is required	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signed Declaration by Owner	✓	✓	✓	
Copy of Vehicle Registration Certificate (VRC)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Vehicle Import Receipt (if applicable)	✓	✓		✓
Copy of Certificate of Conformity (CoC)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Roadworthiness Certificate (if applicable)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Certificate of Initial Fitness (COIF)		✓		
Copy of Seat belt certification	✓	✓		✓
Copy of Route Licence issued by the National Transport Authority (NTA)		✓	✓	
Copy of Trailer Licence Cards (both sides) from Motor Tax Office			✓	
Weight, height and length of vehicle combination			✓	
A4 Route Map as agreed with local authority and NTA		✓	✓	
Confirmation letter from local authority confirming accepted proposed route		✓	✓	
Modifications Report (if applicable)		✓	✓	✓

*Additional documentation may be requested by the RSA as appropriate.