



Type Approval Leaflet

From October 29th 2014 Type Approval applies to:

- **Completed N2, N3 and**
- **Special-purpose vehicles N1, N2, N3, M2, M3, O1, O2, O3 & O4**

APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR ALL NEW VEHICLES SOLD OR REGISTERED

From October 29th 2014 type approval will extend to completed (multi-stage built) vehicles of categories N2 and N3 (Heavy Commercial Vehicles) and special-purpose vehicles of categories N1, N2, N3, M2, M3, O1, O2, O3 and O4.

This means that, from October 29th, 2014, all new vehicles (including trailers but excluding agricultural vehicles) will require type approval certification in order to be sold or registered in Ireland or any EU Member State. Type approval was first introduced for passenger cars (M1s) in 1998. See our [ECWVTA implementation dates table](#) for more information on the approval dates affecting various vehicle types.

Type Approval Requirements for New Vehicles Entering into Service

In order to register or sell a new vehicle from October 29th 2014, national or EU type approval certification will be required. This certification will be passed on by the manufacturer (through his authorised distributor for example) in order to facilitate registration through the Revenue Commissioners¹ in the case of mechanically propelled vehicles, or at your local motor tax office in the case of heavy trailers (>3.5t). Also from October 29th 2014, it will be a requirement that all new

¹ Or to Applus Car Testing Service – as they have been appointed by the Revenue Commissioners to carry out a range of vehicle registration functions on their behalf

light trailers (<3.5t) have a type approval certificate at the point of sale. The following are the certificates of approval which are acceptable:

- **An EC Certificate of Conformity (EC CoC).** This certificate is issued in respect of a vehicle that meets the European Communities Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) requirements. This certificate allows the vehicle to enter into service in any Member State of the European Union.
- **An Irish National Small Series Type Approval Certificate of Conformity (NSSTA CoC).** This certificate is issued in respect of a vehicle that meets Ireland’s National Small Series Type Approval requirements. Upon purchasing a vehicle, the NSSTA CoC is issued by the manufacturer to the purchaser and signifies that the vehicle is of a type which has been approved by the NSAI. The number of vehicles which can be approved as part of a small series is as follows:

Categories	M1	M2/M3*	N1	N2/N3*	O1/O2	O3/O4*
Units	75	250	500	250	500	250

* Higher limits are allowed for in certain circumstances. See [EU Regulation 1230/2012](#)

- **An Irish Individual Vehicle Approval Certificate (IVA Certificate).** This certificate is issued in respect of a vehicle that meets Ireland’s Individual Vehicle Approval requirements, a scheme suited for vehicles imported or manufactured in very small numbers or as individual vehicles. Each vehicle is examined individually and when the technical requirements are met, an IVA Certificate is issued by the NSAI to the owner or manufacturer.

If you import a new vehicle and it has national approval certification from a Member State of the European Union (other than Ireland), please contact the NSAI to have the certification and/or vehicle examined in order to verify whether Ireland’s national approval requirements are met. Should the NSAI consider that Ireland’s approval requirements are met, then the NSAI will issue you with an Irish IVA certificate.

A mutual recognition agreement is in place between Ireland and the UK. Under this system and in certain circumstances, a UK IVA or NSSTA certificate can be exchanged for an Irish approval certificate and vice versa. For more information on this, please contact the NSAI.

Contact Details

The NSAI - Irelands Approval Authority

The NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland) is Ireland's appointed Approval Authority and are responsible for issuing all national approvals (IVA or NSSTA) for vehicles in Ireland. In order to facilitate the issuing of type approval certification for N2 and N3 vehicles, the NSAI have set up an [Approved Vehicle Body Builder \(AVBB\) Scheme](#). Applications for the type approval of completed HGV's will only be accepted from Approved Vehicle Body Builders after 29th October 2014. For more information on this and on obtaining approval, please contact the NSAI at the following

www.nsai.ie

Tel: 01 8073800

Fax: 01 8073838

Email: info@nsai.ie

Address: NSAI, 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry, Dublin 9

The Revenue Commissioners - Ireland's registration authority

The Revenue Commissioners are Ireland's registration authority for motor vehicles. From 29th of October 2014 onwards, the Revenue Commissioners will require proof of approval for all new vehicles entering the fleet. Please visit Revenue's website at www.revenue.ie for more information on the registration of vehicles.

Road Safety Authority - RSA

The RSA website contains further information on the [type approval](#) process and including; [FAQ's](#), [implementation dates](#) and links to the [relevant legislation](#). Stakeholder information leaflets which were previously issued in order to coincide with the various implementation dates are also available to download from the website. If you need further information you can email ecwvta@rsa.ie or phone 096-25040 or 096-25014.

Appendix 1 FAQ's for Manufacturers/ Bodybuilders

How can manufacturers/ bodybuilders get approval for their vehicles?

An EC Certificate of Conformity (EC CoC) - *proof that the vehicle meets with European Communities Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA)*

ECWVTA consists of a series of tests carried out on a prototype vehicle and on the production process used to manufacture the vehicle. If the vehicle and production process passes these stringent safety and environmental tests, then the vehicle receives EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval. Each subsequent vehicle manufactured in the same way is issued with an EC Certificate of Conformity (EC CoC) which allows the vehicle to enter the fleet of any Member State of the EU.

In order to achieve ECWVTA, manufacturers need to apply for approval to an Approval Authority, of which there is one in each of the Member States of the European Union. Applying for ECWVTA can be costly and complex, involving strict conformity of production requirements, however its main advantage is that it allows manufacturers to sell throughout the EU in unlimited quantities. In order to achieve ECWVTA, vehicles must meet with all of the relevant separate Directives and Regulations listed in Annex IV of [2007/46/EC](#).

Irish National Small Series Type Approval Certificate of Conformity (NSSTA CoC)

There are a number of small to medium businesses who manufacture or assemble heavy duty vehicles in small volumes for the Irish market. These manufacturers may find ECWVTA prohibitively expensive due to the limited quantities of vehicles they produce. Therefore, Ireland has introduced a national small series type approval (NSSTA) scheme for the approval of such vehicles. The NSSTA scheme is administratively less onerous than ECWVTA and where appropriate, alternative technical requirements apply. There are also reduced Conformity of Production requirements. Once NSSTA has been granted to the manufacturer by the NSAI, the manufacturer may issue a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for each vehicle produced.

NSSTA is applied for in the Member State where vehicles are destined to be sold. The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is the Irish appointed approval authority and is responsible for issuing NSSTA for vehicles in Ireland. The NSAI has established a network of Appointed Test Centre's (ATC) who physically examine and issue test reports for some or all of the technical requirements. These test reports are then used by NSAI as part of an application for national small series type approval. In order to achieve NSSTA, vehicles must demonstrate compliance with all of the technical requirements relevant to category N2 or N3 vehicles set out in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of S.I. No. 158 of 2009. These are derived from the EC requirements but with certain exemptions and variations.

Irish Individual Vehicle Approval Certificate (IVA Certificate)

Ireland has introduced the Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) scheme for the approval of new vehicles imported or manufactured in very small numbers or as individual vehicles. The technical and administrative requirements associated with IVA are less onerous than those of NSSTA or ECWVTA. Once a vehicle passes an IVA inspection, an Individual Vehicle Approval Certificate is issued which allows the vehicle to be first licensed in Ireland. As with NSSTA, the NSAI administer the IVA scheme in Ireland and manufacturers should contact them for more details.

If you are involved in importing or manufacturing vehicles in very small numbers or as individual vehicles, then the IVA scheme may be the best commercial decision for you. There is no limit to the number of vehicles that can be sold. However, as each vehicle is approved individually, the cost of approving several vehicles may be greater than the cost for NSSTA. The NSAI can help advise which option is more suitable for you.

In order to achieve IVA, vehicles must meet with the technical requirements set out in Part 5 of Schedule 3 of S.I. No. 158 of 2009. These are derived from the NSSTA requirements but with certain exemptions and variations.

What kind of proof of approval will I get if I am a Manufacturer?

Once approval has been granted by the approval authority in Ireland, (the NSAI), the manufacturer will get an *Approval Certificate*. It will either be an ECWVTA, or an Irish NSSTA, or an Irish IVA.

When selling a vehicle you (the manufacturer) are required to give the buyer a Certificate of Conformity if that type of vehicle has been checked to ECWVTA or Irish NSSTA, or if that vehicle has been individually approved you must pass on the Irish Individual Vehicle Certificate. For Irish NSSTA, copies of the CoC must also be sent to the NSAI.

To legally issue a *Certificate of Conformity*, you will need to ensure that each vehicle sold is the same type as the vehicle originally approved. This will mean cooperating with the approval authority to confirm that the production conforms to that type. This is known as *Conformity of Production*. The *Conformity of Production* requirements will be agreed with the approval authority as part of the type approval procedure. There are no *Conformity of Production* requirements for IVA.

I am a bodybuilder/ manufacturer. How do I get approval certification for the vehicles I produce?

As you are completing part of the vehicle build and you have responsibility for the safety or environmental acceptability of the construction of the vehicle, you are considered to be a manufacturer. As a manufacturer you can apply to the NSAI for Irish national approval or to any Approval Authority in any Member State of the European Union for ECWVTA. However, in order to facilitate the issuing of type approval certification for N2 and N3 vehicles, the NSAI have set up an [Approved Vehicle Body Builder \(AVBB\) Scheme](#). Applications for the type approval of completed HGV's will only be accepted from Approved Vehicle Body Builders after 29th October 2014.

You will only need to take responsibility for those parts of the vehicle that you have added or modified. If the base vehicle that you have worked upon has been issued with incomplete approval (prior to the work), then these approvals will remain valid as long as the base vehicle systems and components are unaltered. However, certain modifications will alter the approvals of the base vehicle. If you add an axle for example, then tests may be required on the braking systems of the vehicle and the tyres on the new wheels added must have component approval, etc. The body builder will need to understand whether the work they carry out affects the validity of the approvals issued at an earlier stage. The exchange of information is very important during the multi stage build process. Body builders will generally require access to the base vehicle manufacturer's approval information to ensure that, where applicable, modifications carried out are in line with the base vehicle manufacturer's guidelines.

What are special purpose vehicles

Special purpose vehicles are vehicles which have been adapted in order to perform a particular function requiring special arrangements or equipment. Examples of special purpose vehicles would be armoured vehicle, hearse, trailer caravan, mobile crane, converter dolly, exceptional load transport trailer.

I am a buyer. How can I get proof of approval?

Certificates confirming proof of approval will be issued by the manufacturer of the vehicle for ECWVTA or Irish NSSTA or by the National Standards Authority of Ireland for Irish IVA.

If the vehicle has been checked to ECWVTA or Irish NSSTA, then the proof of approval you will get is a *Certificate of Conformity*. A *Certificate of Conformity* will say that the vehicle you have bought has been built to the same standards as a vehicle that was checked thoroughly to all the standards. This first vehicle was Type Approved. All other vehicles produced can be registered if they are considered to be the same **type** as the vehicle thoroughly tested.

If the vehicle has been checked to Irish IVA, then the proof of approval you will be given is an Irish *Individual Vehicle Approval Certificate*. Each vehicle is checked individually.

What if I have a new vehicle that does not have proof of approval?

After the [mandatory dates](#), a manufacturer must provide a buyer with proof of approval.

If you have a new vehicle for which the manufacturer cannot give you proof of approval, such as a new vehicle made for sale in a country outside the European Union, it may be that you, or the manufacturer, dealer, or importer, could get an Irish IVA (*Individual Vehicle Approval*). NSAI would need to be contacted to see if this was possible.

I am a vehicle converter. Am I a manufacturer and if so, how do I get a proof of approval for the work I do to convert a vehicle to be a bus?

As you are completing part of the vehicle build and you have responsibility for the safety or environmental acceptability of the construction of the vehicle, you are considered to be a manufacturer. As a manufacturer you can apply to the NSAI for Irish national approval or to any Approval Authority in any Member State of the European Union for ECWVTA.

However, if you are only a subcontractor for the work on the vehicle then you are not a manufacturer as you are not responsible for the safety or environmental acceptability of the construction of the vehicle. The person who subcontracts you is. That person will be the manufacturer and therefore he/ she should contact the approval authority.

I am a vehicle converter. I do not make the brakes, tyres, lights..... How can I take responsibility for the safety of brakes, tyres, lights.....?

You will only need to take responsibility for those parts of the vehicle that you have modified. The parts that you do not modify will not need to be checked, because they were examined when the vehicle you bought was originally approved. For example, if you add wheelchair accessibility then evidence will be required by the approval authority that the anchorages for the restraint systems which you have fitted are sufficiently strong in order to resist the prescribed forces. Further to this, evidence will be required that webbings and hardware intended to secure the wheelchair (tiedown mechanisms) meet with prescribed strength requirements. The converter will need to understand whether the work they carry out affects the validity of the approvals issued at an earlier stage. The exchange of information is very important during the conversion process and converters will generally require access to the base vehicle manufacturer's approval information and ensure that modifications carried out are in line with the base vehicle manufacturer's guidelines where applicable.

I manufacture vehicles for Ireland and one other EU Member State (the UK for example). Do I need different approvals for each market?

If your vehicle has ECWVTA, you will not need separate approvals for each Member State (as these approvals are acceptable throughout the EU).

If your vehicle has an Irish NSSTA or IVA then you will need to contact the registration authorities in the Member State where you wish to register the vehicle in order to establish whether or not the Irish approval is acceptable in their jurisdiction. The approval certificate will be examined for equivalency with the requirements of the Member State where you wish to sell the vehicle. Until the relevant authorities determine that the national approval requirements for their country have been met, then sale/ registration may not be granted.

A ***mutual recognition*** agreement is currently in place between Ireland (National Standards Authority (NSAI) and the UK (UK Department for Transport (DFT)). Under this system and in certain circumstances, an Irish IVA or NSSTA certificate can be exchanged can be exchanged for a UK one and vice versa. For more information on this, please contact the NSAI.

As a manufacturer, how much will national approval (NSSTA or IVA) cost?

The fees for approval work are charged based on the amount of time taken to carry out the administrative work and also based on the amount of testing involved. However, the NSAI will try to provide an estimate for the costs involved, once the scope of work has been agreed with the manufacturer.

As a manufacturer or retailer of light trailers, do I need to keep records of approved trailers sold?

From the [mandatory type approval dates](#), manufacturers and retailers of light trailers are required to have EC or Irish approval certification for the relevant new light trailers they hold in stock. When selling type approved trailers, manufacturers and retailers must keep type approval records for the trailers sold. (See Part 2 and Part 4 of SI No 158 of 2009).

What if I have a new trailer in stock that does not have proof of approval?

After the [mandatory dates](#), light trailers must have approval before they can be sold. If you have a new trailer in stock which requires approval before it can be sold, you should contact the NSAI in order to investigate whether national approval (NSSTA or IVA) can be attained.