

February 2013



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Light Goods Vehicles (N1)

Type Approval Leaflet

From April 29th 2013

APPROVAL REQUIRED AT REGISTRATION FOR ALL NEW N1's

The 29th of April 2013 is an important date for the registration of new light goods vehicles in Ireland. Light goods vehicles have EU classification N1 and are vehicles which are designed and constructed for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes. From the 29th of April 2013, all new N1's must have approval certification in order to be registered.

Since October 2011 type approval has applied to new N1's manufactured in a single stage. From the 29th of April 2013 onwards, all new N1's (including multi-stage built) will require approval certification in order to be registered.

Background

Due to safety, environmental, and trade reasons, harmonised construction standards have been developed for new vehicles being registered in the European Union. Any vehicle that has achieved *European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA)* can be registered in any Member State of the European Union. The type approval Framework Directive [2007/46/EC](#) has been transposed into Irish law by [S.I. No. 157 of 2009](#) and [S.I. No. 158 of 2009](#).

The type approval framework directive allows Member States to introduce national approval schemes. Ireland has developed the National Small Series Type Approval (NSSTA) and the Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) schemes for the approval of vehicles manufactured or converted individually or in small numbers. The technical and administrative requirements associated with NSSTA and IVA are less complex than those of ECWVTA.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is the Irish appointed approval authority and is responsible for issuing NSSTA and IVA for vehicles in Ireland. The NSAI has established a network of

Approved Test Centre's (ATC) in order to physically examine vehicles and issue test reports with regard to various subjects. These test reports are then used by the NSAI to grant vehicle or trailer approvals.

Approval dates affecting N1 vehicles

ECWVTA already applies to all new cars and buses and from October 2011 the scheme was extended to include N1's manufactured in a single stage by one manufacturer (complete). From April 29th 2013 onwards, N1's which have undergone a multistage build (involving more than one manufacturer) will require an EC/Irish certificate of conformity (CoC) or an individual approval certificate in order to be registered.

What proof of approval will the Revenue Commissioners/ NCTS need to register my vehicle

An application to first register a new N1 from April 29th 2013 must be accompanied by either of the following:

- **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 N1 vehicles which can be approved as part of a small series is limited to 500 per year.
- **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.

Special Purpose N1 vehicles – Approval from October 2014

A Special Purpose vehicle is defined in Directive 2007/46/EC as a vehicle “having specific technical features in order to perform a function which requires special arrangements and/or equipment”. These are vehicles which, because of their technical features, cannot meet the technical requirements of the Directives specified in Annex IV of Directive 2007/46/EC. In order for a manufacturer to declare that a vehicle is special purpose, the manufacturer should first consult with the NSAI (or another European approval authority). From October 29th 2014 onwards, special purpose N1’s will require approval certification in order to be registered. An example of a special purpose N1 vehicle is an N1 which has been specifically adapted in order to be driven by a physically disabled person.

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 make enquiries about obtaining approval, please contact the NSAI at the following:

www.nsa.ie

Tel: 01 8073800

Fax: 01 8073838

Email: info@nsai.ie

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

Revenue Commissioners

The Revenue Commissioners are the registration authority for mechanically propelled vehicles in Ireland. Please visit Revenue’s website at www.revenue.ie for further information relating to first registration of vehicles or importing of vehicles.

Road Safety Authority - RSA

The RSA website contains further information on the [type approval](#) process including; [FAQ’s](#), [implementation dates](#) and links to the [relevant legislation](#). Please visit the RSA website at www.rsa.ie. If you need further information, you can email ecwvta@rsa.ie or phone 096-25040 or 096-25014.

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, an N1 vehicle 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 N1 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, however a manufacturer may only produce 500 N1's of a particular type of N1 in any one year.

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, an N1 vehicle must demonstrate compliance with all of the technical requirements relevant to category N1 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, an N1 vehicle 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.

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.

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*** arrangement is currently in the process of being put in place between Ireland and the UK. Under the new arrangements, the time and administrative requirements in order to have Irish approval certification recognised in the UK (and vice versa) will be greatly reduced. It is expected that an announcement will be made in the coming weeks, and more details on the arrangements will be provided at www.rsa.ie.

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

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