

Government scheme to incentivise the conversion of vehicles to autogas

The Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects in conjunction with the Authority for Transport in Malta, will be launching another grant scheme to incentivise vehicle owners to convert their vehicle to autogas. This is another environment friendly budget measure aimed at reducing further emissions from road traffic.

Subject to the below conditions, the grant amounts to €200 which will be given upon the conversion to autogas of a Category M1 or N1 motor vehicle used for private purposes.

The scheme comes into effect on the 1st January, 2018 and closes on the 31st December, 2018 or earlier if the maximum of 250 claims has been reached. Persons who have converted their vehicle to autogas during the past years may still apply for the scheme.

The scheme is capped at 250 eligible claims on a first come first serve basis.

THE SCHEME

1. Interpretation

For the purposes of the scheme, unless the context otherwise requires:

‘applicant’ means the person applying for the grant under this scheme and who, apart from being a person residing in Malta, has the vehicle registered in his name;

‘application’ means the application made for a grant under this scheme;

‘autogas’ means liquefied petroleum gas with specifications according to MSA EN 589 used for the propulsion of motor vehicles;

‘certificate of retrofitting’ means the certificate issued by a competent person after the carrying out of the retrofitting of a motor vehicle for the use of LPG in its propulsion system;

‘competent person’ means the person who is approved by the Regulator for Energy and Water Services to carry out work, supervision and certification related to autogas including retrofitting;

‘motor vehicle’ means a Category M1 vehicle, i.e. a passenger vehicle with a seating capacity of up to eight passengers and the driver or a Category N1 vehicle, i.e. a vehicle designed and constructed for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes;

‘grant’ means the grant being given under this scheme to an applicant who satisfies the requirements of section 4;

‘Malta’ means the islands of Malta;

‘person’ means a natural person;

‘person residing in Malta’ means a natural person who either holds a legally valid identification document issued in terms of the Identity Card and other Identity Documents Act (Cap. 258) or who has a residence permit or a letter issued from the expatriate office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

‘private use’ means any use other than for hire or reward;

‘registered owner’ means the person in whose name a motor vehicle is registered by Transport Malta;

‘Regulator for Energy and Water Services means the Regulator responsible for services relating to energy and water, and to make provision with respect to matters ancillary thereto and connected therewith;

‘Transport Malta’ means the Authority for Transport in Malta set up under the provisions of the Authority for Transport in Malta Act (Cap. 499);

‘vehicle registration certificate’ means the vehicle registration certificate issued by Transport Malta providing proof of registration of the motor vehicle and in whose name the vehicle is registered.

2. Area of applicability

The scheme for a grant of €200 for the conversion of a motor vehicle applies to a person residing in Malta who is the registered owner of a motor vehicle which –

- (a) is registered with and licensed by Transport Malta in the name of the applicant on date of the conversion and application for the grant,
- (b) has been converted to autogas by a competent person, and
- (c) is an M1 vehicle (a passenger vehicle with a seating capacity of up to eight passengers and the driver) **or** is an N1 vehicle (a vehicle designed and constructed for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes),
- (d) the autogas equipment or the autogas modification system installed in the vehicle comply with the requirements of UN ECE 67 or UN ECE 115 and have been approved by an approving authority as the kind authorized in accordance with Directive 2007/45/ EC as amended, vehicles powered by diesel engines shall not apply to this scheme.

3. Manner of application and supporting documents

- (i) An application for a grant under this scheme shall be made by the registered owner following the retrofitting of the motor vehicle with autogas equipment by a competent person, in the application form (VEH62) set out in the schedule to this scheme and shall contain all the information, details and documents as required in the said form and in terms of this scheme.
- (ii) Applications shall be signed and stamped by the competent person and shall be accompanied by the following documents and payment:
 - (a) a copy of the certificate of retrofitting issued by the competent person;
 - (b) a copy of the fiscal receipt issued by the competent person;
 - (c) the original vehicle’s registration certificate (logbook);

- (d) a copy of a legally valid identification document of the applicant or a residence permit or an acknowledgement issued by the expatriate office (Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security);
 - (e) an administrative fee of €10, payable to Transport Malta, for the issue of a new registration certificate.
- (iii) Applications under this scheme, together with all the relevant documents, shall be submitted by the applicant to Transport Malta, Vehicle Licensing Unit, A3 Towers, Arcade Street, Paola, between 07.30am and 12.00pm and between 1.00pm and 2.30pm during working days or mailed to the same address.

4. Eligibility

- (i) To be eligible, an applicant shall conform with Section 2.
- (ii) To qualify, the motor vehicle:
 - (a) shall be registered in the applicant's name on the date of conversion and date of application for the grant;
 - (b) shall be an M1 vehicle (a passenger vehicle with a seating capacity of up to eight passengers and the driver) or an N1 vehicle (a vehicle designed and constructed for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes);
 - (c) shall be registered for private use only (not for hire or reward);
 - (d) has to be converted to autogas by a competent person in conformity with the provisions of the Autogas (Installation and Certification) Regulations (S.L.545.26);
 - (e) shall have the autogas equipment or autogas retrofit system installed thereto complies with the requirements of UN ECE 67 or UN ECE 115 and has been type-approved by an authorised type approval authority in accordance with Directive 2007/45/EC as amended.

5. Payment of Grant

Where an applicant qualifies for the grant, the grant shall be paid directly to the applicant. The grant given shall not be assessed as income for tax purposes.

6. Validity of application

An application shall not be deemed to have been submitted by the applicant unless it is completed in full and is accompanied by all the relevant documents. If the application is not completed correctly and the relevant documents are not included, the claim for the grant shall not be processed unless the missing information is provided. Transport Malta shall write to the applicant advising him of the information required.

7. Refund of grant if the vehicle is converted back from autogas to petrol

Should the owner apply to have his motor vehicle converted back from autogas to petrol within a period of at least thirty-six (36) months from the date of the grant's approval, then that person shall be asked to refund the grant received back to the Authority. This applies for all vehicles converted to autogas during the past years and have benefitted from the grant.

8. Duration of scheme

This scheme shall remain in force until the 31st December, 2018 unless modified or terminated beforehand by a Notice in the Government Gazette. The scheme shall be automatically terminated when 250 eligible applicants have benefited from this grant scheme. Notwithstanding, Government may terminate the scheme at any time by giving prior notice.

The scheme may be renewed as deemed necessary by the Minister responsible for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects by a Notice in the Government Gazette.

9. Amendments to the scheme

The Minister responsible for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects may make any amendments to this scheme by a Notice in the Government Gazette.

10. Fraudulent claims

Where a fraudulent claim arises, Transport Malta may institute criminal proceedings against those responsible. In the event of an incorrect payment of a claim, Transport Malta reserves the right to recover funds paid in error.

11. Competent persons

An updated list of competent persons may be obtained from the website of the Regulator for Energy and Water Services:

http://downloads.rews.org.mt/files/1698667f-4dda-41a2-8dcd-c3b97614df62_65e6018b-4e84-4931-876a-957a8f976fe4.pdf