

Overview about Operator Licence Categories (LPTV1, LPTV2, SOV)

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TOPIC: Overview about Operator Licence Categories (LPTV1, LPTV2, SOV)

1. What types of Light Passenger Transport Services Operator Licences are available?

From 29 July 2026, there are three categories:

- LPTV1 Operator Licence;
- LPTV2 Operator Licence; and
- SOV Operator Licence – Special Occasion Vehicles.

2. What is an LPTV1 Operator Licence?

An LPTV1 Operator Licence is for operators with **one (1) to four (4)** authorised vehicles. LPTV1 vehicles may operate through authorised intermediary booking platforms. They may also provide independently arranged pre-booked passenger transport services.

3. What is an LPTV2 Operator Licence?

An LPTV2 Operator Licence is for operators with **five (5) or more** authorised vehicles. LPTV2 vehicles may operate through authorised intermediary booking platforms. They may also provide independently arranged pre-booked passenger transport services.

Additional requirements apply to LPTV2 operators, including requirements relating to garaging facilities and capacity, Planning Authority authorisation, tax compliance and financial standing.

4. What is an SOV Operator Licence?

An SOV Operator Licence is for operators providing eligible pre-booked passenger transport services using Special Occasion Vehicles. SOV vehicles cannot operate through intermediary booking platforms. An SOV Operator Licence may have **one (1) or more** authorised vehicles.

Where an SOV Operator Licence has **five (5) or more** authorised vehicles, the additional requirements applicable at the five-vehicle threshold must also be satisfied.

5. Can an SOV operator have fewer than five vehicles?

Yes. There is no minimum requirement of five vehicles for an SOV Operator Licence. An SOV operator may have one (1) or more authorised vehicles.

6. Can an LPTV1 operator add a fifth vehicle?

No. An LPTV1 Operator Licence is limited to a **maximum of four (4)** authorised vehicles.

If the operator wishes to increase the operation to five (5) or more authorised vehicles, the operator must satisfy the requirements applicable to an LPTV2 Operator Licence.

7. Can LPTV1 and LPTV2 vehicles operate through a booking platform and also take private bookings?

Yes. LPTV1 and LPTV2 vehicles may operate through authorised intermediary booking platforms.

They may also provide independently arranged pre-booked passenger transport services.

8. Can an SOV vehicle operate through an intermediary booking platform?

No. SOV vehicles cannot operate through intermediary booking platforms.

SOV vehicles may only provide eligible pre-booked passenger transport services in accordance with the applicable requirements.

9. Can a vehicle operate as both a Y-plate vehicle and an SOV vehicle?

No. A vehicle must be authorised under the applicable category and cannot operate simultaneously as both a Y-plate vehicle and an SOV vehicle.

Where a vehicle changes from Y-plate to SOV, or from SOV to Y-plate, the applicable Operator Licence and vehicle records must be updated and the registration plates changed accordingly.

10. Can an operator hold more than one Operator Licence?

Yes. An operator may hold more than one Operator Licence.

For example, an operator may have some vehicles authorised under an **SOV Operator Licence** and other vehicles authorised under an **LPTV1 or LPTV2 Operator Licence**.

Whether the other Operator Licence is LPTV1 or LPTV2 depends on the number of vehicles authorised under that licence:

- LPTV1 – one (1) to four (4) authorised vehicles; or
- LPTV2 – five (5) or more authorised vehicles.

Each vehicle must be authorised under the appropriate Operator Licence and must comply with the requirements applicable to that category.

A vehicle cannot be authorised as both a Y-plate vehicle and an SOV vehicle at the same time.

11. How long is each Operator Licence valid?

The validity period depends on the Operator Licence category:

- LPTV1 Operator Licence – **two (2) years**;
- LPTV2 Operator Licence – **one (1) year**; and
- SOV Operator Licence – **one (1) year**.

The Operator Licence must be renewed before its expiry date for the operator to continue operating under that licence.

12. What are the application and renewal fees for an Operator Licence?

The fee for the **issue of a new Operator Licence** is **€200**.

The fee for the **renewal of an Operator Licence** is **€200**.

The €200 fee applies to **LPTV1, LPTV2 and SOV Operator Licences**.

Any additional fees relating to vehicles, replacement Operator Licence certificates, registration plates or Vehicle Registration Certificates (Logbooks), where applicable, are payable separately.

13. How many drivers must an operator have?

The number of authorised vehicles under an Operator Licence cannot exceed the number of drivers legally employed or commissioned by the operator and registered with Transport Malta.

This means that an operator **cannot have more authorised vehicles than registered drivers**.

For example, an operator with five (5) authorised vehicles must have at least five (5) drivers legally employed or commissioned and registered with Transport Malta.

14. Can an operator change from one Operator Licence category to another

Yes. An operator may apply to change the applicable Operator Licence category where the nature or size of the operation changes.

For example, an LPTV1 operator who increases the number of authorised vehicles to five (5) or more must change to an LPTV2 Operator Licence.

An operator may also apply to change between an LPTV1/LPTV2 Operator Licence and an SOV Operator Licence, subject to satisfying the requirements of the new category.

Where vehicles change to or from SOV, the applicable vehicle registration plates and records must also be changed.

15. What happens if the number of vehicles under my Operator Licence changes?

The Operator Licence category must continue to reflect the number of vehicles authorised under that licence.

If an LPTV1 operator increases to five (5) or more authorised vehicles, the operator must change to LPTV2 and satisfy the applicable LPTV2 requirements.

If an LPTV2 operator reduces the operation to fewer than five (5) authorised vehicles, the operator may change to LPTV1.

Any change to the authorised vehicles must be notified to Transport Malta using the applicable form and the Operator Licence certificate must be updated accordingly.

16. What happens if an operator has five or more SOV vehicles?

An SOV Operator Licence may have any number of authorised vehicles.

However, where an SOV Operator Licence has five (5) or more authorised vehicles, additional requirements apply.

These include requirements relating to approved garaging facilities and their capacity, Planning Authority authorisation, tax compliance and financial standing.

The combined approved capacity of the operator's garaging facilities must be sufficient to accommodate all vehicles authorised under the SOV Operator Licence.

17. Do I need a separate Operator Licence for SOV vehicles and Y-plate vehicles?

Yes. SOV vehicles and Y-plate vehicles operate under different Operator Licence categories.

SOV vehicles must be authorised under an SOV Operator Licence.

Y-plate vehicles must be authorised under an LPTV1 or LPTV2 Operator Licence, depending on the number of Y-plate vehicles authorised under that licence.

An operator wishing to operate both types of service may therefore hold an SOV Operator Licence together with an LPTV1 or LPTV2 Operator Licence.

18. What happens if a vehicle changes from Y-plate to SOV, or from SOV to Y-plate?

The vehicle must be authorised and registered under the **new applicable Operator Licence**.

A fee of **€50 per vehicle** applies for adding the vehicle to the Operator Licence.

As the vehicle details appear on the Operator Licence certificate, an updated certificate must be issued. A fee of **€25** applies for the reissue of the Operator Licence certificate.

The vehicle must also be changed to the appropriate registration category and the applicable registration plates replaced. A fee of **€70 per vehicle** applies for the change of registration plates.

The Vehicle Registration Certificate (Logbook) must also be updated. A fee of **€10** applies.

19. Can the same vehicle be authorised under more than one Operator Licence?

No. A vehicle can only be authorised under **one Operator Licence at a time**.

A Y-plate vehicle must be authorised under the applicable LPTV1 or LPTV2 Operator Licence, while an SOV vehicle must be authorised under an SOV Operator Licence.

If a vehicle is moved from one Operator Licence to another, the applicable changes must first be approved and the Operator Licence and vehicle records updated accordingly.

20. Can an authorised vehicle be transferred from one operator to another?

Yes. An authorised vehicle may be transferred from one operator to another, subject to Transport Malta approval and the applicable requirements.

The operator removing the vehicle and the operator adding the vehicle must each update their respective Operator Licence.

The applicable Operator Licence certificates must also be reissued to reflect the change in authorised vehicles.

Where applicable, the Vehicle Registration Certificate (Logbook) must also be updated to reflect the new operator and/or ownership details.