



Road Transport Licensing Committee Monthly Newsletter

APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS AND NOTICES

Notice Period

The Road Transport Act 2001 (“the Act”) and the Road Transport Regulations 2018 (“the Regulations”) require the Road Transport Licensing Committee (“the RTALC”) to publish details of applications, meetings and decisions.

Copies of all applications are available on the RTALC website: www.gov.im/rtlc.

Within a period of twenty one days from the date of this publication, any person may write to the Committee making any objections or representations with respect to the application.

Written objections can be received by letter or email. They should include the name and address of the sender and include the reasons why the objection or representation is made. For the full procedure detailing the submission of objections please see the RTALC website.

NOTICES

Emergency Powers Resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic

Tynwald has passed emergency regulations which have temporarily suspended the RTALC. The suspension will last for the duration of the Coronavirus Proclamation period, which was last extended on April 16th. Once the emergency is over, these regulations will fall away.

The vast majority of the functions of the RTALC have been transferred to DEFA. Within DEFA, the power to exercise these functions has been delegated to Noel Capewell (RTALC Secretary) and Steve Callister (RTALC Project Co-ordinator) who are both DEFA officers. Powers have also been delegated to the DEFA Chief Executive and the Director of Regulation.

The requirement to publish details of applications, meetings and decisions in AD&N Circulars will also move from the RTALC to DEFA for the duration of the Coronavirus Proclamation period.

In practical terms, this means that business as usual should continue for the majority of functions. Unfortunately, the RTALC Office has been closed and the Admin Team redeployed, but all remaining admin functions are being carried out by Noel and Steve.

¹ Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Suspension of the Road Transport Licensing Committee) Regulations 2020 [[SD 2020/0228](#)].

Furthermore, the Vehicle Testing Centre ("VTC") is currently closed meaning that no roadworthiness tests of Goods Vehicles are taking place. Despite this, all Operators are urged to continue with their current maintenance regimes. The current lack of an annual test is no excuse for allowing maintenance standards to deteriorate. It has been agreed that Regular Safety Inspections for vehicles currently being operated can be relaxed from a minimum frequency of 13 weeks to a minimum frequency of 17 weeks, which mirrors the situation in Great Britain. For vehicles not currently being operated, Regular Safety Inspections can be suspended for the period of lockdown arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, but must be reinstated as soon as the lockdown restrictions no longer apply.

I have also been informed that annual roadworthiness certificates that are to expire during this shutdown period will be able to be used to licence vehicles for business/commercial purposes until such time as the VTC reopens. This refers to annual vehicle tax as well as RTLIC Operator Discs.

New Procedures Arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic

As the RTLIC Office remains closed, the majority of work is being completed by officers from their homes. This means that the most effective way to contact us is by the following email addresses:

rtlc@gov.im

noel.capewell@gov.im

steven.callister@gov.im

You can still call our telephone lines and leave a message but it might take a number of days to receive a response.

Renewal of Operator Discs

Before an Operator Disc is due to expire, the operator will be contacted by an officer to determine whether the Disc is to be renewed.

If an Operator Disc is to be renewed, payment can be made over the telephone using a debit card or a credit card. Alternatively, the operator can send a cheque to the RTLIC Office.

Due to the closure of the VTC it will be possible to renew an Operator Disc with an expired roadworthiness certificate. All we ask is that the operator tries to arrange for a roadworthiness test as soon as possible after the VTC reopens.

Once payment has been received, the new Disc will be produced and will be sent out in the post.

It would be appreciated if the most recent PPV Roadworthiness Test pass certificate for the vehicle could be either emailed or posted to the RTLIC Office. Any expired Operator Discs should also be destroyed by the operator.

Application Decisions

The main difference in the new procedures under the Emergency Powers will be that there will be no RTLIC meetings. All decisions will be made primarily by Noel Capewell and Steve Callister with assistance where necessary from other DEFA officers with the required delegated authority (see earlier list). All applicants will be notified in writing once a decision has been made as is currently the case. Any decision that is currently eligible for an appeal to the High Bailiff under the Act still will be.

Advice to Goods Vehicle Operators During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Some operators will have been operating their vehicles throughout the period of lockdown, either as normal, or as part of a reduced fleet. From today, Friday 24th April, several more operators will be permitted to return to work, as outlined in the Chief Minister's speech on Tuesday 21st April.

"From this Friday, builders, construction workers, tradesmen, window cleaners and gardeners may return to work **providing** that they do so safely and within social distancing guidelines.

Businesses that support this activity - such as hardware stores and builders merchants - can also operate providing again that they do so safely, respecting social distancing and other guidelines.

Supporting services such as waste and recycling points will also be able to operate - once again providing that they can do so safely respecting social distancing and other guidelines."

Goods Vehicle Operators and drivers should ensure that social distancing guidelines are maintained, and this involves the transporting of workers to places of work.

I have included the following Public Health guidelines which may apply to Goods Vehicle Operators and Drivers:

- Regularly wash hands with soap and water, or if not possible use sanitiser gel, to kill germs.
- Regularly clean surfaces with sanitising wipes or spray to get rid of germs.
- Operators/drivers who share a goods vehicle should consider regularly cleaning the steering wheel and instruments.
- Always carry tissues and use them to catch coughs and sneezes. Dispose of used tissues in a suitable bin as soon as possible.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive a copy of this monthly newsletter by email please send an email to rtlc@gov.im. There is no charge for this service and it will reduce the costs of administration.

Steven Callister
Road Transport Licensing Committee