



LEGISLATIVE MANDATE OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT REGULATOR

09 OCTOBER 2025

Content

1. Background
2. Functions of the National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR)
3. Powers of the NPTR
4. Regulation of Road – Based Public Transport
5. Exemptions
6. Application for new operating licence (OL)
7. Publication of operating licence applications
8. Provisions for renewal of an operating licence
9. Requirements for new and renewal of an operating licence
10. Related services and vehicle modes
11. Imposed conditions on an operating licence
12. Accreditation of tourist transport operators
13. Application process flow: Operating Licence and Accreditation
14. Application fees and ways for lodging
15. Sample of operating licence and accreditation certificate

1. Background

The NPTR is a statutory body, established in terms of Section 20 of the National Land Transport Act (NLTA), Act 5 of 2009.

Members of the NPTR are currently appointed by the Minister of Transport on part time basis, with the composition of the Department's internal officials.

Their appointment is based on the following specialised knowledge, training and experience such as in *Public Transport; Transport Economics ;Accounting, Auditing or actuarial science; Law; Tourism transport and/or Vehicle standards and specification*

Under the National Land Transport Amendment Act (NLTAA), Act 23 of 2003, the NPTR will consist of not more than seven non-executive members.



2. Functions of the National Public transport regulator (NPTR)

The functions of the NPTR, under NLTA Section 21 are to:

- monitor and oversee public transport in the country in general and the activities of Provincial Regulatory Entities and municipalities in relation to their land transport functions;
- receive and decide on applications relating to operating licenses or accreditation for interprovincial transport, tourist transport services; and any other services designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.
- oversee fares charged for public transport services throughout the country.
- advise the Minister on the making of regulations in relation to fares or fare structures (in terms of section 8)



2. Functions of the NPTR cont....

- The National Public Transport Regulator must produce and regularly update a standardised procedures manual for itself and for Provincial Regulatory Entities, Municipal Regulatory Entities, and contracting authorities in respect of their activities in terms of this Act, subject to this Act.
- In the case of an application for an operating licence for an interprovincial service other than a tourist transport service or charter service, the National Public Transport Regulator must consult the relevant Provincial Regulatory Entities and relevant planning authorities in the prescribed manner.
- Where a PRE refuses to receive an application, or delays an application unduly, the applicant may submit the application to the NPTR in the prescribed time and manner.



2. Functions of the N PTR cont....

- Where a Provincial Regulatory Entity refuses to receive an application, or delays an application unduly in the prescribed manner, the applicant may submit the application to the National Public Transport Regulator in the prescribed time and manner.
- Any application concerning an operating licence or conversion of a permit to an operating licence that is pending before a provincial operating licensing board on the date that this section comes into operation, and that relates to a service specified in subsection (1)(b), must be finalised by that board or by the National Public Transport Regulator once it has been established, applying the provisions of this Act.
- As soon as possible after its appointment, the National Public Transport Regulator must formulate an implementation plan for establishing the entities required by this Act and for capacitating them, and for implementing the other provisions of this Act.



3. Powers of the NPTR

- The NPTR may, in appropriate cases:
 - make Inquiries
 - hold hearings to enable it to perform its functions set out in the NLTA, section 21.
- In dealing with any matter before it the NPTR must have the prescribed powers.
- Accordingly, the NLTA regulations outline that the NPTR can:
 - Allow affected parties to appear before it.
 - Issue subpoenas, demand documents and request testimony under oath
 - Investigate public transport matters, verify compliance with operating licence
 - Provide recommendations thereof.



4. Regulation of Road – Based Public Transport

- No person may operate a road based Public Transport unless he/she/it is a holder of an OL.
- An operating licence may only be issued to and held by the person/entity registered, in terms of the National Road Traffic Act, as the **owner** or **operator** of the vehicle,
- An operating licence is issued only on application made in terms of the NLTA, section 51 by the following entities:
 - National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR);
 - Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE);
 - Municipal Regulatory Entity (MRE)
- OL's are issued for a maximum period of 7 years, at the discretion of the Committee.



5. Exemption

NLTA, section 53 states that an operating licence is not required for:

- A courtesy service with less than three vehicles.
- A lift club
- Farmers carrying their own workers
- Municipalities carrying their own workers in vehicles owned by them
- Conveyance of university staff



6. Application for new operating licence (OL)

NLTA, section 54 state that applications for an OL must:

- Be made on the basis of one application per vehicle;
- Be made in the prescribed manner;
- Be made by completing and submitting the prescribed form, which must allow:
 - for the applicant to submit recommendations or documentation in support of the application,
 - be accompanied by the prescribed fee,
 - Specify the exact vehicle to be used for providing the service concerned



7. Publication of operating licence applications

- The NLTA, section 59 outline that the regulatory entities (NPTR, PRE, MRE) must give notice of receipt of application for new OL;
- Interested parties are given an opportunity to make comments or representations;
- The entity must consider all comments and representations received duly submitted and are relevant in dealing with the application;
- Where objections are received, the entity must request further information or hold a hearing in the prescribed manner before taking a decision on the matter.

NB: This process take note of the compliance with the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No.3 of 2000), as mentioned in National Land Transport Regulation (NLTR).



8. Provisions for renewal of an operating licence

According to the NLTR, regulation 25:

- Application must be lodged 30 days before expiry of an OL.
- Where the application is properly made and the regulatory entity has not issued the OL, the licence will remain valid until a renewed licence is issued or refused, as stated in .
- The applicant is required to keep in the vehicle the receipt issued by the entity together with the original OL as proof that an application was made.

These provisions will be amended to give a grace period of 21 days after the expiring date of the OL.



9. Requirements / prerequisites for new and renewal of an operating licence

1. Application Form 1A
2. Proof Of Payment/Bank Receipt
3. ID Copy/Company Registration Certificate
4. Tax Clearance Certificate & Tax Compliance Status Pin from SARS
5. Company Proxy Letter and certified ID copy of the proxy
6. Statement Of Oath in terms of 57 (1) and Statement in terms of section 62 (1) of NLTA
7. Copies of Operating Licence and Route Annexures (**for renewal**)
8. 180 days operational affidavit (**for renewal**)
9. Vehicle licence disc and road worthy certificate
10. Certificate of registration in respect of motor vehicle
11. Service records or maintenance plan
12. Public Passenger Liability Insurance
13. Proof of operations (Itineraries or invoices)
14. BBBEE Compliance

NB documents to be certified

10. Related Services and vehicle modes

	Tourist Transport Services	Charter Services
Purpose	To transport tourists for sightseeing, leisure, cultural or heritage experiences, etc within the Republic of South Africa.	To provide transport for private groups on a hired basis within the Republic of South Africa.
Users	Tourists (domestic or international) often arranged via travel agents, hotels, or tour operators.	Schools, churches, companies, sports teams, social groups, etc.
Conveyance	Linked to tourism packages or tourist destinations; may include guided tours.	Point-to-point trips, arranged on contract/agreement, without a fixed route or schedule.
OL Issuing Entity	National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR)	Various Provincial Regulatory Entities (PREs), for example Gauteng - PRE
Regulation	Requires both tourist transport operating licence and tourism accreditation under National Land Transport Act (NLTA).	Requires a charter operating licence under the National Land Transport Act (NLTA).
Examples	convey tourists to game reserves, wine route tours, cultural heritage site visits.	Bus hired for a school outing, church trip, or staff function.

10. Related Services and vehicle modes

cont...

Vehicle Mode	Seating capacity	Typical used for	Examples
<i>Sedans</i>	1–4 passengers	Transfers, individual or business tourist travel	Airport pick-ups, hotel transfers
<i>Minibuses</i>	7–15 passengers	Small group tours and excursions	Wine route tours, family sightseeing trips, etc
<i>Midi-buses</i>	16–35 passengers	Medium-sized group tours	Conveyed to cultural and heritage sites, safari lodges, etc
<i>Luxury Coaches</i>	36+ passengers	Large tourist groups, long-distance or multi-day tours	Sightseeing tours, cross-border trips
<i>Open Safari Vehicles</i>	6–12 passengers	Wildlife/game viewing in parks and reserves	Safari drives in Kruger or Addo National Park
<i>Specialized Off-road Vehicles</i>	Varies from the specialisation	Adventure tourism in rugged terrain	Mountain and désert excursions, dune tours
<i>Double-decker Sightseeing Buses</i>	50+ passengers	City sightseeing, hop-on/hop-off tours	Urban heritage and cultural tours



11. Imposed service conditions on an operating licence

The imposed service conditions by the NPTR on tourist transport services are as follows;

- A trail / boot-carrier must be used for luggage on all long-distance trips.
- A valid roadworthy certificate of the vehicle must be submitted to National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR).
- A detailed itinerary must be always kept in the vehicle.
- A list of passengers and their ID numbers must be kept in the vehicle on all trips.
- A qualified tour guide shall accompany the tourists all time.
- No passengers are picked up at any municipal ranking facilities
- No shuttle and or transfer services is permitted in terms of this licence unless rendered as part of a tourist service.
- Passengers to be picked up and dropped at designated area as per the itinerary.
- The authority is reviewable at any time.
- The driver of the vehicle to be in possession of Professional Driving Permit (PDP).
- The passengers are conveyed to a common destination.
- The passengers must be protected by valid passenger liability insurance cover. Liability must be always kept in the vehicle.

12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators

- *Accreditation of tourist transport operator* is the act of granting credit or recognition, to fit and proper tourist operators. This process is aimed at ensuring that, only, fit and proper persons or entities are engaged in the transportation of tourists, and that they transport tourists in a manner that is safe and will promote South Africa as a tourist destination.
- *Benefits of accreditation*
 - Undergo a rigorous legal vetting process, able to legally operate the tourist transport services, confirmed as a legal operator.
 - Ability to enhance the operators' reputation and credibility in the market.
 - Improve the levels of professionalism and be a reliable tour operator, following tourist business etiquettes
 - Future interactions with the NPTR become seamless and quicker application process



12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators cont...

The NLTA, Section 81 outlines the accreditation of tourist transport services;

- (1) As from a date determined by the Minister, by notice in the *Gazette*, no one may operate tourist transport services unless accredited by the National Public Transport Regulator.
- (2) The NPTR must accredit operators of tourist services on application by them if satisfied that they:
 - (a) are fit and proper persons or entities to transport tourists in a manner that is safe and will promote South Africa as a tourist destination;
 - (b) meet the prescribed technical requirements; and
 - (c) have access to acceptable vehicles and maintenance facilities.
- (3) The NPTR must consider the prescribed matters in deciding whether to grant or refuse an application for accreditation.
- (4) Such accreditation may specify classes or maximum number of vehicles that may be operated by the particular operator.

12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators cont...

- (5) No such accreditation may be granted unless the NPTR has obtained and considered recommendations from the tourism authority or authorities recognised by the Minister.
- (6) Accreditation may be granted without such recommendations where such tourism authority has not supplied them in the time specified in the entity's request or where no such requirement is prescribed.
- (7) The NPTR must keep a register of accredited tourist operators which is available for inspection to any interested person on request, on payment of the prescribed fee.
- (8) Accredited operators must renew their accreditation every five years in the prescribed manner, failing which their accreditation will lapse.



12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators cont...

The NLTA, under section 82 outlines the application process for accreditation as follow:

- Complete the prescribed form
- Pay the prescribed fee
- Submit the form with supporting documents
- The NPTR officials will notify the applicant of the inspection
- Prepare an inspection report for the NPTR
- If satisfied, the NPTR will issue a certificate of accreditation and a token for each vehicle



12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators cont...

- Furthermore the NLTR, under regulation 32(1)(c) states that after a date to be determined by the Minister and made known by notice in the *Gazette*, that the applicant or one or more of the applicant's employees have passed the tests or examinations or have attended training courses specified by the NPTR, to ensure that they understand the transport industry, road traffic and transport legislation, and other relevant matters.



12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators continue...

The requirements / prerequisites for the application process for accreditation:

1. Application Form 2A
2. Proof Of Payment/Bank Receipt
3. ID Copy / Company Registration Certificate
4. Tax Clearance Certificate and SARS pin
5. Company Proxy Letter and certified ID copy of the proxy
6. Statement Of Oath
7. Statement in terms of section 62 (1) of NLTA
8. Copies of OL and Route annexures
9. Vehicle licence disc and road worthy certificate
10. Certificate of registration in respect of motor vehicle
11. Service Records or maintenance plan
12. B-BBEE certificate / exemption affidavit
13. Recommendation Letters
14. Public Passenger Liability Insurance
15. Proof of operations (itineraries or invoices)

12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators continue...

The NLTA, section 83 outline that the NPTR may cancel the accreditation of an operator if the operator;

- No longer complies with section 82(2);
- Has provided false or misleading information to the NPTR
- Based on three or more inspections or incidents, or on one or more accidents or collisions that have occurred, has failed to maintain vehicles operated by that operator in a satisfactory condition;
- Based on three or more incidents, has failed to use or employ suitably qualified drivers or used drivers who do not hold the required professional driving permits in terms of the National Road Traffic Act;
- Is the subject of negative complaints against that operator from a planning authority or from passengers or other interested persons that indicate that such cancellation is justified; or
- On failure to comply with any other prescribed requirement.



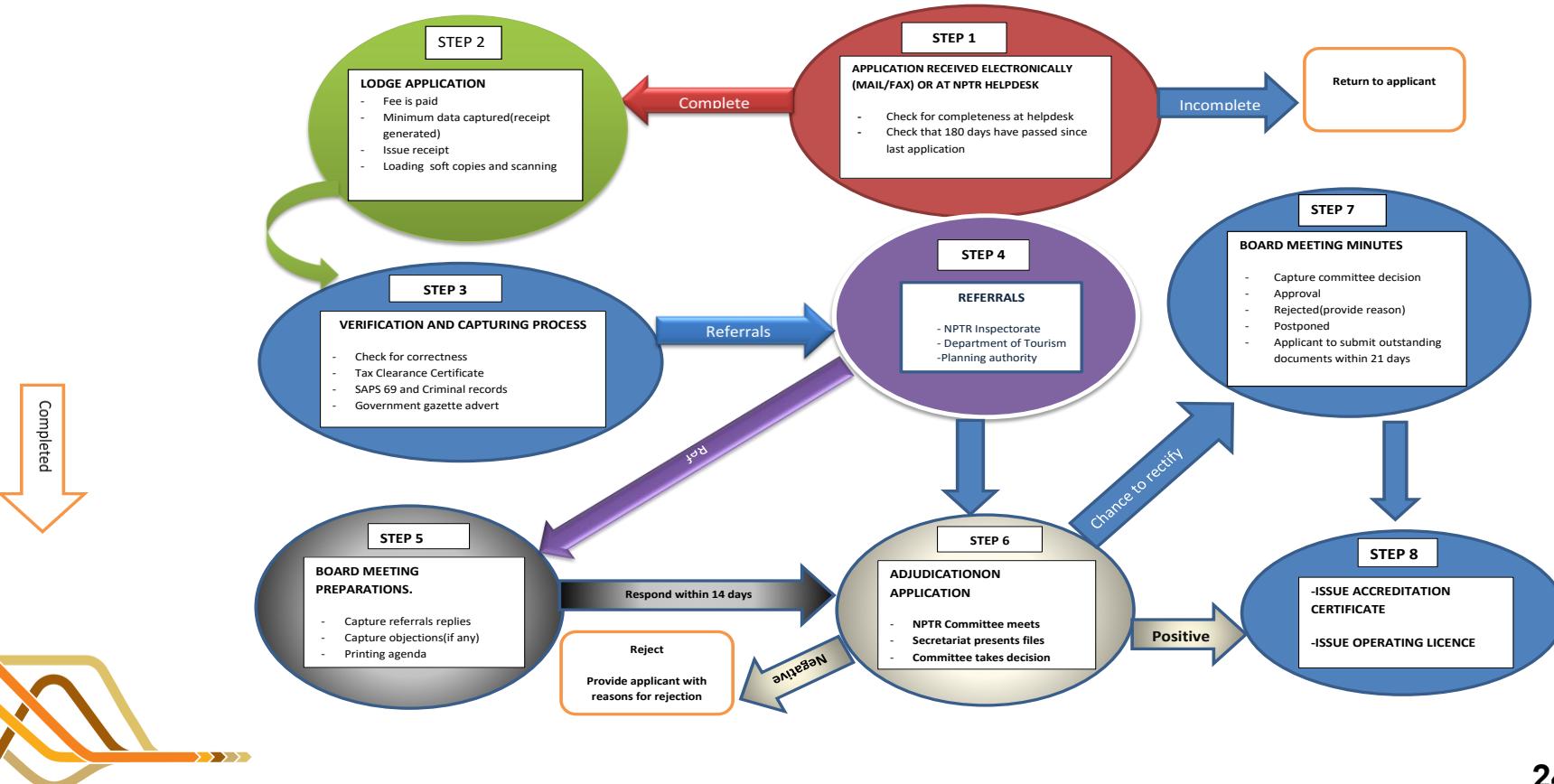
12. Accreditation of Tourist Transport Operators continue...

Section 84 of NLTA outlines the certification of vehicles for tourist operator as follows:

- Any accredited operator or any entity that owns vehicles and rents them out to tourist operators may apply to the NPTR to certify a vehicle.
- The NPTR must certify a vehicle and issue an operating licence for it on proof submitted to it in the prescribed manner that:
 - the vehicle is properly registered and licensed on eNaTIS;
 - the vehicle is suitable in all respects for the type of tourist service envisaged;
 - a valid and current roadworthy certificate has been issued for the vehicle;
 - the vehicle and passengers who will be carried are adequately insured with a registered insurer; and the vehicle is otherwise acceptable according to the NPTR.
 - The NPTR may impose conditions



13. Application process flow: Operating Licence and Accreditation



14. Application fees and ways for lodging

All OL related applications are **R627,66 per vehicle**

New / renewal of accreditation application
R2,092,20 per tourist transport operator



Electronic Fund Transfer / Deposit

Bank. : **ABSA**
 Acc. no : **405 362 0095**
 Branch : **632 005**
 Type. : **Cheque account**
 Ref. : **Applicant's ID number / Company Reg No**

Communication Channels	
	NPTR Helpdesk Department of Transport 159 Forum Building Cnr. Struben & Bosman Street Pretoria 0001
	NPTR@dot.gov.za (60-day applications) NPTROTC@dot.gov.za (Over-The-Counter Applications)
Telephone (Help-desk)	Helpdesk Manager: 012 309 3752

15. Sample of operating licence and accreditation certificate

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT South Africa OPERATING LICENCE			Republic of South Africa DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OPERATING LICENCE		
<p>Issued in terms of and subject to the provisions of the National Land Transport, 2009 (Act no 5 of 2009), subject to the particulars and conditions set out below.</p>					
LICENCE HOLDER PARTICULARS					
Association Name RAS Registration No Operating Licence Number Application Number ID-number Name Address			Association Name RAS Registration No Operating Licence Number Application Number ID-number Name Address		
					
					
VEHICLE PARTICULARS					
Vehicle Registration Number Gross Vehicle Mass Engine Number Chassis Number Manufacturer Passengers Vehicle Description Year of First Registration		LTD93V5GP 3050 1GD9310922 JTEAREAJ20K004033 Toyota 6 (Seated) Station wagon 2024		Vehicle Registration Number Gross Vehicle Mass Engine Number Chassis Number Manufacturer Passengers Vehicle Description Year of First Registration	
OPERATING LICENCE PARTICULARS					
Cross Border Permit Valid From Valid To		NO 28 May 2025 21 Oct 2029		Cross Border Permit Valid From Valid To	
<p>This document authorizes and is restricted to the conveyance as set out in the following description :</p> <p>UPLIFTMENT</p> <p>Date: 2025 -05 - 28</p> <p>NATIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT REGULATORS PRIVATE BAG X 193 PRETORIA 1000</p>					
<p>ANNEXURE 1</p> <p>Secretary _____</p> <p>Board : NPTR National board</p>					
<p>PUBLIC ROAD TRANSPORT</p> <p>LGPPO183245/S- Operating Licence number 28 May 2025 21 Oct 2029 Valid From _____</p> <p>Holder LTD93V5GP Registration number Station wagon Type of vehicle 6 (Seated) Passengers</p>					
BB2245481 28/05/2025 10:58:57 AM					

<p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT UPLIFTMENT</p> <p>2025 -05 - 28</p> <p>NATIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT REGULATOR PRIVATE BAG X 193 PRETORIA 0001</p>	<p>ANNEXURE 1</p> <p>Issued in conjunction with the following Public Operating Licence Number : LGPGP0183245/5</p> <p>This Operating Licence authorises and is restricted to the conveyance as set out in the following description :</p> <p>The conveyance of : Charter service</p> <p>National Route Code : 12059312059300204008 Board Route Code : GPB9RCHARTER Origin : Johannesburg Central (Johannesburg South) Destination : Johannesburg Other (Johannesburg South) Description : The conveyance : Charter type service. National route code: Board route code: Destination: To points with a common destination within the boundaries of the Republic of South Africa and back to points within the Province of Gauteng. Origin: From points within the Province of Gauteng. Description: Trips must be between points situated within the Province of Gauteng to points with a common destination within the boundaries of the Republic of South Africa and back to points within the same group back to the starting points within the Province of Gauteng. Time Tables: Pre-arranged trips.</p> <p>The conveyance of : Tourist service</p> <p>National Route Code : 12059312059300204015 Board Route Code : GPBRCTOURIST Origin : Johannesburg Other (Johannesburg South) Destination : Johannesburg Other (Johannesburg South) Description : The conveyance: Tourist service. National route code: Board route code: Destination: All tourist attractions within the Republic of South Africa. Origin: From points within Gauteng. Description: Tourists and their personal effects from points within Gauteng to tourist attractions in the Republic of South Africa and return. Time Tables: Pre-arranged trips. Service conditions imposed by the Gauteng Provincial Regulatory Entity: 1. The operator must comply with all relevant provisions of the National Land Transport Act of 2009, the National Land Transport Regulations of 2009, the Regulations of Gauteng Public Transport Regulatory Entity of 2011, National Road Traffic Act 91 of 1996, Regulation in terms of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 and all other by-laws issued by the local authority where the operator operates. 2. A valid certificate of fitness (COF) must be submitted to the Gauteng Provincial Regulatory Entity on an annual basis, that is, one year from the date of issue. 3. The operator must display the relevant COF and COF sticker must be displayed on the vehicle at all times in the manner prescribed. 4. No daily scheduled services operating in accordance with a timetable will be undertaken by the operator, unless the point of embarkation in terms of this authority from any point referred to in the said authority to any other point referred to herein. 5. The same tourist shall embark and disembark at the same point of embarking notwithstanding that the point of embarkation may differ from the point of disembarking. 6. Tourists travel as a group and the tourists. The comprising such a group shall embark and disembark as a group at the same point of embarkation notwithstanding that the point of embarkation may differ from the point of disembarking. 7. When tourists are conveyed the driver of the vehicle to which this operating licence relates or any other person responsible for managing that tourist, unless such tourist has a valid COF, must be registered with respect to the matter, such a driver or any other person must be registered as a tourist guide for the relevant geographical area in which the conveyance takes place or be registered as a</p>
---	--



15. Sample of operating licence and accreditation certificate



Thank You!

