

National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR) and Operating Licences

Last update: 2019-01-11

Wishing you and our tourism industry a very prosperous 2019.

Our ongoing struggle with the National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR) with regards to Operating Licences is gaining impetus.

Following the issues being raised on numerous platforms during 2018, a meeting was convened between the Director Generals of Tourism and Transport on 20 December 2018 with private sector represented by TBCSA and SATSA. Issues tabled during the meeting included the backlog and delay in processing applications, the requirements for B-BBEE certification and reference letters, and the challenges faced with route authority.

The DG of Tourism explained the importance of the tourism sector, the fact that it is one of the pillars of the stimulus package and that the challenges created by the NPTR has a negative impact on the economy and job creation in South Africa.

A plan of action has been developed to address the backlog of applications, to meet with the NPTR Board for a review of requirements and criteria, and to gain deeper understanding from the industry as to the challenges they face in obtaining Operating Licences.

The TBCSA, representing all tourism associations with transport members, will take the lead on this issue. SATSA will continue gathering information from its members and will be a lead support to TBCSA.

As you might know SATSA created a tracking list of all NPTR applications and have been assisting members through the application process. Currently we have 69 applications in process (some dating as far back as August 2016) and 24 applications completed successfully.

We now require the assistance of all SATSA wheel operators to advise us of any applications in process with NPTR. This is to create a thorough record of applications, to ensure that they receive immediate attention, and to highlight requirements and criteria that might be redundant or not make sense for the tourism industry.

Should you have (or had) applications with NPTR, please forward the below information to hannelie@satsa.co.za by 18 January 2019:

- Company Name
- Company Registration Number
- Contact Details (Contact Person, Tel/Cell, Email)
- NPTR Accreditation Number and valid from and to dates (if you are accredited)
- Type of Application including number of vehicles (i.e. New OL, OL Renewal, Accreditation, Renewal of Accreditation, Change of Details, Transfer, etc.)
- Date application was submitted to NPTR
- Application/Reference Number (if received)
- Status of your application (if you know)
- Challenges faced with your application including requirements or criteria that you believe might not be relevant

Information submitted to SATSA will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and will only be shared with TBCSA, NDT and NPTR. We would also like to invite non-SATSA members to submit information to us, so please feel to share this communication.

Important Notices relating to Operating Licences:

- All successful applicants to uplift their Operating Licences within 30 days of notice. The NPTR might cancel licences that are not uplifted within this timeframe
- The process for Accredited Operators adding additional vehicles changed with sudden effect. Instead of applying for an Additional OL you now have to apply for a New OL which will be presented to the NPTR Board and gazetted. This has been raised as a critical issue and will hopefully be addressed during the meeting with the NPTR board.

Looking forward to hearing from you and as always, we will keep you updated on progress.

Kind regards

Hannelie du Toit

SATSA COO