

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Motor Vehicles (Taxi Drivers' Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

SR 2012 No. 7

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 79A(3) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3. The rule is due to come into operation on 30th April 2012.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to remove the existing blanket ban on a person suffering from diabetes subject to insulin treatment from obtaining a taxi driver's licence.

3. Background

- 3.1. These Regulations apply the revised minimum medical standards required by Commission Directives 2009/113/EC and 2009/113/EC for driver licensing in respect of eyesight, epilepsy and diabetes mellitus. Many of the medical standards in domestic legislation already comply with EU minimum standards but where medical standards are being relaxed, all applicants with insulin treated diabetes (provided they meet the new prescribed conditions) can now be considered for a licence to drive a taxi.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. A UK-wide consultation was carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency during the period 3rd February to 28th April 2011 and comments received were generally supportive on the diabetes mellitus proposals.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. An equality screening exercise was carried out on this proposal and no equality issues were identified.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. No impact assessment was carried out due to the lack of measurable impact on the public, private or voluntary sectors.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The Regulations have no measurable financial implications.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The Regulations are considered compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. The Regulations bring Northern Ireland into line with existing EU legislation.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. The Regulations ensure parity with the Great Britain provisions.

11. Additional Information

11.1. None