

FAQs on Hearses

RSA

What is the definition of a hearse? It is defined in EU Regulation 2018/858 as *'a vehicle of category M intended for the transport of deceased persons and having special equipment for such purpose'*. Hearses are considered to be special purpose vehicles (SPVs) i.e. vehicles which have been adapted in order to perform a particular function requiring special arrangements or equipment.

Do they require type approval? Yes. Since 29 April 2012 all **NEW** special purpose M1 vehicles must have proof of type approval before [Revenue](#) will register them for use on Irish roads.

Do hearses require registration, roadworthiness testing, tax and insurance? Yes.

I bought an estate vehicle which was previously converted to a hearse in the UK. How do I register it in Ireland? You will need to contact [Revenue](#) who is responsible for the importation and registration of vehicles in Ireland. They will explain what documentation they require in order to register this vehicle. If you are considering adding seats to this vehicle see our FAQ on Modifying or Converting a vehicle [here](#).

I purchased a hearse which will only be used in a private capacity. Can it be tested and taxed as a private vehicle?

Passenger vehicles with no more than eight passenger seats are tested at [NCT](#) centres while goods or commercial vehicles are tested at [CVRT Centres](#).

- If this vehicle has only two seats, one for the driver and one passenger seat it is considered a goods vehicle and should be tested at a CVRT Centre.
- If it has been modified and more seats added it would be eligible for NCT testing.
- Where a vehicle has been modified since its last roadworthiness test, a [Modifications Report](#) will be required at NCT.
- You would need to reclassify the vehicle from a goods (N1) to a passenger vehicle (M1) so you will need to contact your local motor tax office.

For further information see our FAQ on Converting or Modifying a Vehicle [here](#).