

Fact Sheet: UBER – What Drivers Need to Know

As an Uber driver, you are running a business and must comply with the same tax rules as every other business operator. Most importantly, Uber drivers are also regulated by some specific rules not affecting some other businesses.

Is an Uber the Same as a Taxi?

The Tax Office have specific rules for taxi's so it's important for all Uber drivers to understand those rules because, like it or not, for tax purposes an Uber is treated the same as a taxi. If you are interested in more reading this view was confirmed in the Federal Court (see *Uber B.V. v FCT* [2017] FCA 110).




So what do those rules mean?

 You must register for an ABN.


As an Uber driver you are carrying on an enterprise, or business and are required to have an ABN whether registered as a sole trader, company or trust.

You should also understand the different risks, costs, and tax charges with different structures. For more information please **give me a call on (07) 5448 9600** or [CLICK HERE to drop me an email](#).

 You must register for GST.

For most businesses, GST registration is voluntary if your turnover is less than \$75,000.

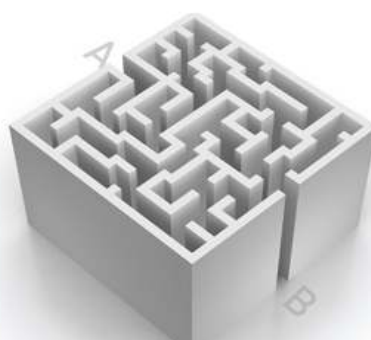
ALL taxi drivers (which includes ALL Uber drivers) are required to be registered for GST irrespective of turnover.

 You must keep appropriate records.

The ATO require all records relating to your business to be kept for 5 years. That date starts from the date of your Income Tax assessment so if you lodge your tax returns late then you will have to keep records for longer.

It is no longer necessary to keep a shoebox of paper receipts though. With appropriate bookkeeping systems, you may be able to keep all records electronically. This means tech savvy Uber drivers can scan or photograph their records to file them on any storage device.


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As a minimum you will need to keep copies of all fare receipts, expense receipts for your business costs, bank statements, and other business related documents such as loan agreements and other legal contracts.

 You should open a separate business bank account.

A fundamental of any business enterprise should be a separation between your personal finances and those of the business. It is important therefore, you have a separate bank account for your business transactions. That way, you will have a discrete record of all deposits received and withdrawal/payments made and there is a better chance your accounts will be accurate.

 You will need to keep a logbook

Unless you use your vehicle 100% of the time for Uber, you must keep a logbook to calculate the business use of your vehicle.

A logbook records the business and personal use for your vehicle.

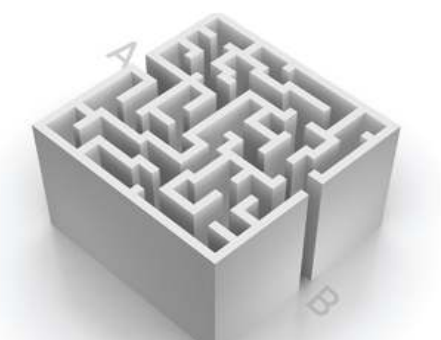
Unless you have two cars then it is highly unlikely your Uber vehicle will be accepted to be 100% business use. A log book is essential to prove your claim for your vehicle costs if the ATO review your records. Without it the ATO may not allow any expenses for your vehicle and that could mean a lot of unnecessary tax to pay.

Summary

As an Uber driver you are regulated by the same tax laws as taxi drivers. This means you must register for GST and keep appropriate business records. We can help with your accounting, bookkeeping, and record keeping.

For more information **give me a call in the office on (07) 5448 9600** or [CLICK HERE to drop me a message](#).

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