

Track Licencing

Process for assessment and licencing of a new venue (kart, race & speed)



The MSA has incorporated the charges for venue inspections into the track licence fees. For new venues wishing to apply for a track licence, there is a requirement to pay the appropriate fee prior to a venue inspection. The process for applying for a licence for a new venue is as follows:

A representative of the MSA registered motor club contacts the Safety Director of the MSA for an initial discussion regarding the venue. At this stage it will be essential to establish the ownership and status of the course and whether it will be subject to a 'closed road' order.

If the proposed venue forms part of a highway in England or Wales, then the licencing and event permitting arrangements will fall under the Road Traffic Act 1988 (Motor Racing) (England) Regulations 2017 or the Road Traffic Act 1988 (Motor Racing) (Wales) Regulations 2018 and will require a motor race order. A highway is defined as a road including footpaths and verges; bridleways, footpaths and carriageways which are open to the public. If it is identified that the proposed venue will require a motor race order, then the MSA procedure for 'Closed Road Events' will also apply.

For all other regions where legislation is already in place to permit 'closed road' events, existing procedures remain.

Initial Assessment:

The first assessment of the proposed venue will be a desktop feasibility study. At this stage there is no requirement to apply for a track licence and there will be no costs to the club from the MSA. The following information should be submitted to the MSA Safety Director:

- Description of the proposed event including classes of vehicle, organising club, size of event, invited clubs, etc.
- Details of the landowners and any other stakeholders
- An Ordnance Survey map 1:25,000 of the area which will identify highways and public rights of way
- A scale map showing key features of the course such as start line, location of officials' facilities, marshal posts, location of rescue and recovery vehicles, finish line, paddock/service area, etc.
- A Google earth image of the location
- Sequential images of the course taken at 50m intervals plus in car video footage (if feasible)
- Details of the course length, the maximum and minimum course width, available length of slow zones after finish lines. Measure or estimate the height difference of any cross camber, be it edge to edge or crown camber.
- Information regarding the site – SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or subject to any other Environmental Designations
- Arrangements for managing spectators
- Proposals for barriers and other forms of protection

The MSA will review the information submitted and provide feedback within a month. If, based on the MSA's initial advice, the club wish to continue the process, the next stage is to apply for track licence.

Application for a track licence:

The MSA will accept track licence applications from the owner or operator of a course. Information regarding the criteria for application for a track licence is contained in the MSA Yearbook E1. A track licence application form can be obtained by emailing technical@msauk.org or telephoning 01753 765000. Once the track licence application has been received and the relevant fees paid, the MSA will arrange for a first physical track inspection. The fees are still payable regardless of whether the venue ultimately meets the required standard to be issued with a licence.

The first inspection will be conducted within two months of receipt of application. A member of the motor club and a representative of the landowner will be required to attend. The findings of the inspection will be discussed with the relevant parties and a full written report will be submitted within a month. The report will identify the actions required to meet the standard of a track licence. Once the applicant is satisfied that they have fulfilled the requirements, they will contact the MSA to request a re-inspection.

Issue of a track licence:

If the venue meets the standard then a track licence will be issued for the calendar year in which the works have been completed. If the venue is not to the standard this will be communicated in writing and the process repeated until the standard is met or the applicant decides not to pursue the process.

For venues which require a motor race order, the track licence will not be issued until the applicant has demonstrated that they have also met the requirements of the MSA's procedure for 'Closed Road Events'.