

## Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle

### PRE LICENSING CRITERIA

Detailed below is a summary of the criteria relevant to vehicles presented for licensing as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, except in respect of limousines, for which a different set of criteria have been adopted. (Vehicle proprietors should familiarise themselves with the full details contained within the byelaws and the relevant legislation.)

Other than with the consent of the licensing authority all vehicles (except limousines) submitted for licensing will be:

#### **1 GENERAL**

- a) In respect of hackney carriage vehicle licences numbered 01-85 and all private hire vehicle licences, such vehicles shall be no more than 3 years of age from the date of first registration, (see note 1 below).
- b) In respect of hackney carriage licences numbered 100 onwards, any vehicle presented for licensing for the first time shall be first registered to the applicant and, in any case, no more than one year old.
- c) No vehicle shall be licensed once it is more than 10 years old, from the date of first registration, (see note 1 below)
- d) In respect of hackney carriage vehicle licences numbered 80 onwards, all vehicles presented for licensing will be accessible to the disabled and side loading.
- e) The vehicle shall be in a satisfactory mechanical order and body condition and in operational order in all respects. The vehicle is to be either:
  - A saloon, hatchback, estate vehicle or people carrier type vehicle, which is to the manufacturers, unaltered specification; or
  - A purpose built vehicle or disabled accessible vehicle.
- f) All vehicles shall be right hand drive.
- g) A private hire vehicle shall not be of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage.

#### **2 DOORS**

- a) The vehicle shall have at least two doors for the ingress and egress of passengers and a separate door for the driver.
- b) In respect of doors, which open outwards, these must open to an angle of at least 60 degrees.

#### **3 SEATS**

- a) The vehicle shall:
  - Have seats of a minimum width of 17 inches (43.2cm) per person (except where the vehicle is individually approved by the licensing authority).

- b) In the event of the vehicle being a people carrier type vehicle or a mini bus:
- The seating configuration in the passenger area (behind the driver), shall be such that no person for the purpose of ingress or egress of the vehicle shall have to move or dismantle any seat or other obstruction or manoeuvre over or round any other passenger or article carried in or on the vehicle or which is fitted so that it forms part of the vehicle. In cases where this is not attainable the seat in the centre row of the vehicle and adjacent to the NEAR SIDE door of the vehicle shall be PERMANENTLY removed.

#### **4 LUGGAGE**

- a) The vehicle shall:
- Be capable of accommodating a wheel chair either constructed or dismantled in a reasonable manner
  - Be capable of carrying a reasonable quantity of luggage in a safe, secure manner
  - In the event of the vehicle being a hatchback or estate vehicle it shall be fitted with a guardrail of an approved construction to separate the luggage area from the passenger compartment.

#### **5 GLASS**

- a) The vehicle will be fitted with glass meeting the following Visible Light Transmission (V.T.L.) standards:
- Front side glass: 70% minimum
  - Windscreen glass: 75% minimum

#### **6 TAXI METER**

- a) A hackney carriage will be fitted with an electric taximeter which shall be set at the rate set by the Authority and which has been certified and sealed by the Authority.
- b) No person shall, without reasonable cause, tamper with or permit any person to tamper with, any taximeter with which the carriage is provided or with the fittings or seat affixed there to.

#### **7 LIVERY**

- a) In respect of hackney carriages, the vehicle is required to be black in colour (see note 2 below)

#### **8 ROOF SIGNS**

- a) All Hackney carriages, except in the case of a London Style taxi, will display a roof sign which is white in colour showing when illuminated, a white light to the front and a red light to the rear. It shall be of a minimum size of 600mm (24inches) in length and 150mm (6 inches) in height bearing the word 'TAXI' in black letters to the front and rear. The light must be capable of being illuminated when the vehicle is plying for hire in its controlled area and work in conjunction with the meter fitted to the vehicle.
- b) There shall be displayed on a Hackney Carriage vehicle, in the front windscreen facing forward in a conspicuous, un obstructed position and working in conjunction with the taxi meter and roof light fitted to the vehicle, an electrically lit sign with the words 'FOR HIRE' thereon.
- c) Private hire vehicles are not permitted to affix a roof sign, for any purpose, without the prior consent of the licensing authority.

## 9 DOCUMENTATION

- a) The vehicle proprietor must submit the following documents prior to the issue of the licence; the documentation must be current at the time the licence commences:
- Insurance certificate or cover note that expressly indicates ON RISK cover for 'hire and reward'. This may be produced after the vehicle has satisfactorily passed its initial test of suitability;
  - Mechanical inspection certificate
  - A Department of Transport Test certificate as required by the Road Traffic Act. N.B. under Section 47 Road Traffic Act 1988, a hackney carriage is required to be tested not more than 1 year from the date of first registration.
  - A current vehicle excise licence.
  - Proof of ownership of the vehicle by means of a bill of sale or hire purchase agreement; or
  - The vehicle registration document showing the current owner's name and address

## 10 MISCELLANEOUS

- a) The vehicle will be equipped with an effective fire extinguisher.
- b) The vehicle shall be fitted with a spare wheel that is in a serviceable condition at all times.
- c) No advertising information may be displayed on the front doors of any licensed vehicle (see note 3 below), or on the front or rear screen of the vehicle. No advertising shall be displayed anywhere else on or in a licensed vehicle without the consent of the licensing authority.
- d) A vehicle being licensed as a hackney carriage shall:
- Be of such design that the driver can verbally communicate with the passengers being carried there;
  - Be fitted with an interior light for the use of any person being carried in the vehicle and capable of illuminating the interior thereof;
  - Be fitted with flooring consisting of proper matting carpet or other suitable material;
  - Be fitted with cushioned seats, the upholstery of which is free from splits, cuts, holes or other damage
  - Provide a means of opening or closing not less than one window on each side of the vehicle.
  - Have the roof covered and kept watertight.
  - Be fitted with adequate seat belts for use by persons being carried in the vehicle.

A proprietor shall be familiar with and at all times comply with the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 as the same may be amended and all the regulations and Bylaws made by the Council and all other relevant statutory provisions relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles for the time being in force.

Note 1: Criteria 1a and 1c in respect of the age of vehicle to be licensed shall not apply to vehicles currently licensed as private hire vehicles or as hackney carriages on licences numbered 01-85. However, these criteria will apply to any vehicle presented for licensing, as a replacement vehicle, on those licences, after DATE TO BE INSERTED.

Note 2: Criterion 7a in respect of the colour of hackney carriage vehicles shall not apply to vehicles operating under licenses 01-76. However, this criterion will apply to any vehicle presented for licensing, as a replacement vehicle, on those licences, after DATE TO BE INSERTED.

Note 3: Criterion 10c, in respect of advertising on the front doors of a vehicle, does not currently apply to private hire vehicles as they are not required to display door stickers, provided by the Council. It is proposed that this condition should apply to all private hire vehicles at the time of the renewal of the vehicle licence, commencing DATE TO BE INSERTED or by SET DATE.