

**SPECIFICATION AND CONDITIONS OF LICENCE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE  
VEHICLES**

**1. SPECIFICATION OF VEHICLES**

**1.1 General**

All vehicles shall have an appropriate "Type Approval" which is either a European Whole Vehicle Type Approval (EWVTA) or UK Low Volume Type Approval (UKLVTA). Vehicles shall not have been altered since that approval was granted. A Single Vehicle Type Approval (SVTA) or a Independent Vehicle Approval (IVA) may be accepted for wheelchair accessible vehicles. Vehicles presented for approval, and while in use, shall comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and any subsequent amendments or re-enactments thereof.

1.2 No fittings, other than those approved, may be attached to, or carried on, the inside or outside of the vehicle.

1.3 A Hackney Carriage vehicle shall be capable of carrying at least 4 and no more than 8 passengers.

1.4 All vehicles must be right hand drive unless specifically exempt by the Council

1.5 All vehicles shall be less than 5 years old for new licences and less than 10 years old from the date of manufacture for existing licences.

1.6 All vehicles must be maintained to no less than the standards set out in the VOSA publication 'MOT Inspection Manual" – Car and Light Commercial', ISBN 0-9549239-0-1 as amended and the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Inspection Guidance

1.7 The following sections provide the outline requirements of the Council's specification for Hackney Carriage vehicles prior to examination and testing by a designated testing station authorised by the Council. A list of authorised testing stations can be found at Appendix (to be confirmed) .

**2. BODY**

2.1 The vehicle shall have no exterior visible signs of previous significant accident damage

2.2 The paint work shall be of a professional finish

2.3 The bodywork shall have no significant signs of corrosion. Corrosion includes visible rust and signs of rust by virtue of the paintwork being blistered.

- 2.4 Running boards shall only be permitted where they are fitted by manufacturers. The board shall be a minimum 125mm in width, all of which shall be available as a step.

### **3. WHEELS AND TYRES**

- 3.1 The vehicle shall have four road wheels of uniform standard, size and style, which conform to construction and use regulations.
- 3.2 An appropriate tyre repair system (as fitted by the manufacturer) must be provided.
- 3.3 The appropriate repair system to only be used as an emergency measure ie to allow the vehicle to be driven to a place of repair.
- 3.4 All tyres, including the spare tyre, shall comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specification
- 3.5 All tyres fitted to the vehicle shall meet current legal requirements at all times.

### **4. INTERIOR**

- 4.1 The minimum leg room available to any passenger shall be 200mm. The measurement will be taken from the base of the seat to the centre of the rear of the seat in front when the front seat is at its full, rearwards extension. Where there is no seat in front the measurement will be taken from the base of the seat to the nearest obstruction in front.
- 4.2 The internal headroom from the seat cushion to the lowest part of the roof in a vertical line shall be a minimum of 920 mm
- 4.3 Vehicles must have adequate space for luggage to be kept in a clean, safe, secure and water tight manner
- 4.4 Vehicles must have a water tight roof covering and properly carpeted or covered flooring (with no rips or tears)

### **5. DOORS**

- 5.1 The vehicle shall have a minimum of 4 side opening doors which are easily accessible to passengers. Access to and from vehicles such as minibuses will be determined on a case by case basis eg the rear door should not be a means of access.
- 5.2 All vehicles shall have doors that open sufficiently wide to allow easy access in and egress from the vehicle.
- 5.3 All doors shall be capable of being readily opened from the inside and outside of the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism

5.4 The interior door handle shall be clearly visible and easily accessible to passengers when the door is in a fully open position and the means of operation of the door handle is easily identified.

## **6. SEATS**

6.1 Vehicles shall have a passenger seating capacity of not less than 4 persons and not more than 8 persons

6.2 Each seat shall be fitted with fully operational seat belts, compliant with the appropriate Standards.

6.3 Each seat shall be properly cushioned and be in a clean condition.

6.4 Each seat shall not be less than 406 mm in width.

6.5 Where bench seats are provided, then the seat shall provide a minimum of 406mm seating space for each passenger i.e. a rear bench seat shall not be less than 1218 mm in order to accommodate 3 passengers.

6.6 Removed seating mounts must be rendered irreplaceable and the floor surface to be smooth and unencumbered.

6.7 All passenger seats must face forward or rearward to the direction of travel, (no passenger may sit sideways to direction of travel unless specifically exempt by an authorised officer of the Council eg limousines)

6.8 Any modification to seating configuration, including removal of seats, in any vehicle must be accompanied by an IVA Certificate.

6.9 If the vehicle was originally constructed to seat more than 8 passengers (excluding the driver) it must not have been converted, modified or altered in any way which allows it to carry eight or less passengers (excluding the driver).

## **7. WINDOWS**

7.1 Opening windows shall be provided in the rear of the vehicle capable of being opened by the rear seat passengers

7.2 Vehicle windows shall have visual transmission to ensure that the interior of the vehicle is clearly visible from the outside of the vehicle at all times. All vehicles shall be fitted with windscreen glass that has a light transmittance of 75%, and all other window glass shall have a light transmittance of not less than 70% EXCEPT those parts of the rear window or any side window adjacent to the luggage space in any estate-type vehicle which can be of any tint fitted at manufacture providing it is not opaque

7.3 No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional means to darken or tint the glass on any part of the vehicle.

## **8. FACILITIES FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS**

- 8.1 Any vehicle that has the facility for the carriage of wheelchair or wheelchair passengers shall be fitted with:
- a. Approved manufacturer installed anchorages that shall be either chassis or floor linked and capable of withstanding approved dynamic or static tests. Restraints for wheelchair and passengers shall be independent of each other. Anchorages shall also be provided for the safe storage of a wheelchair, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints shall be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
  - b. A ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and passenger shall be available at all times for use at the nearside rear passenger door. An adequate locking device shall be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use. Provision shall be made for the ramps to be stored safely in the vehicle when not in use.
- 8.2 The vehicle shall be equipped with a manufacturer's user manual /guide on the safe loading and unloading and security of wheelchair passengers.
- 8.3 Any equipment fitted to the vehicle for the purpose of lifting a wheelchair into the vehicle shall have been tested in accordance with the requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 immediately prior to being first licensed and every 6 months thereafter. A LOLER Certificate of must be produced at the time of MOT and Compliance Testing to the Designated Testing Station and to the Licensing Office at grant or renewal of licence.

## **9. FUEL SYSTEMS**

- 9.1 Fuel systems should be installed to current manufacturer and legal standards. Before commencing any gas fuel conversions it is essential that written approval is sought for the Council.

## **CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO LICENCE**

### **10. MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE**

The vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire, be kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition\* and all relevant statutory requirements (including in particular those contained in Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations shall be fully complied with.

\*Clean condition is defined as follows:

"All body panels to be of uniform colour and finish throughout, unless otherwise authorised by the Council in writing, and to be washed and polished to a high standard. Windows to be clear and smear free inside

and out. Carpets and seating to be vacuumed and to be without cuts, tears or staining”

- 10.1 Every licensed vehicle must be maintained in a safe and clean condition at all times and is subject to such examinations as are required by the Council.
- 10.2 Seats must be fully sprung, free of stains, tears, cigarette burns or repair and not threadbare. Floor coverings must not be unduly worn and present no trip hazards. Household carpeting or similar is unacceptable and must not be used. Upholstery (headlining and side panel coverings) must be free of ingrained grime, factures and maintained in the manufacturers original style.
- 10.3 Without prejudice to the obligations imposed by 10.1 to 10.3 above and without prejudice to any other inspections as stipulated by the vehicle manufacturer, the proprietor of the licensed vehicle shall ensure that **as a minimum** the compliance of routine maintenance inspections must be adhered to, and such inspections shall be recorded and retained (for a minimum of 18 months) and kept available for immediate production to an Authorised Officer of the Council or Police Officer on request.
- 10.4 Please note that the requirement to inspect the licensed vehicle as imposed by the above condition does not release the proprietor of the vehicle for his obligations to carry out further daily inspections to ensure compliance with the above conditions.

## 11. ALTERATION OF VEHICLE

- 11.1 No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle must be made subsequent to the inspection of the vehicle by the Council at any time whilst the licence is in fore and at all times the vehicle shall comply with the specifications of the Council for a licensed hackney carriage. Vehicles which have been modified in any way from the manufacturer’s standard of construction may not be considered suitable for licensing purposes depending upon the nature of the modification.

## 12. IDENTIFICATION PLATE

- 12.1 The plates identifying the vehicle as a Hackney Carriage vehicle and required to be exhibited on the vehicle pursuant to Section 51 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 shall be securely fixed on the outside of the vehicle at the front and rear, at or above bumper height and as near vertically as possible, but fixed nevertheless in such a manner as to be easily removable by an Authorised Officer of the Council or a Police Constable.
- 12.2 One internal window sticker, as provided by the Council, to be placed on the rear passenger window.

12.3 The licence plates and internal window signs must not be affixed to any other vehicle other than that stipulated on the current licence. This equipment remains the property of the Council and must be surrendered immediately upon expiry, suspension or revocation of the licence.

**13. INTERIOR MARKINGS**

13.1 The proprietor shall cause to be clearly marked inside the vehicle in such a position as to be visible at all times to passengers therein, the number of this licence and the number of passengers prescribed in this licence.

**14. SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

14.1 There shall be provided and maintained in the vehicle at all times when it is in use or available for hire, a suitable and efficient fire extinguisher and a suitable first aid kit containing appropriate first aid dressings and appliance, such equipment to be carried in such a position in the vehicle as to be readily visible and available for immediate use in an emergency. It should be noted that the first aid kit is intended for use by a person who has the appropriate knowledge of first aid.

**15. SIGNS AND NOTICES**

15.1 A Proprietor may display on the side and/or rear of the vehicle, below window level, the company name under which the vehicle is operated and/or its telephone number, but no other signs, emblems or notices shall be displayed either outside or inside the vehicle without specific written permission from the Council.

15.2 Any Proprietor wishing to use or sell space on the vehicle for the advertising of another company/business must first apply to the Council with a draft advert for consideration. Only one authorised advert will be permitted

15.3 Such adverts must not:  
i) contain anything religious or political  
ii) advertise alcohol or tobacco  
iii) be pornographic or offensive to good taste  
iv) promote discounted fares, or  
v) advertise jobs

**16. RADIO EQUIPMENT**

16.1 Neither the Operator, proprietor nor the driver of a Hackney Carriage vehicle shall use or cause or suffer to be used in any vehicle any radio equipment for operational communication between Operator and Driver, or between drivers of other Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, except for fully licensed closed channel equipment shall be used for operational communication.

- 16.2 Each Hackney Carriage Proprietor/Operator should have a written policy on the use of mobile phones whilst driving, which should have regard to the latest available guidance on the use of mobile phones whilst driving

## **17. METERS AND FARES**

- 17.1 The vehicle must be fitted with a taxi meter which must comply with the current legislative requirements. The taxi meter shall:
- a. show the fare recorded on the taximeter in clearly legible figures, and the word 'FARE' shall be clearly displayed so as to apply such figures;
  - b. the meter shall be set in accordance with the Council's Table of Hackney Carriage Fares., the tariffs with which the meter has been calibrated must be displayed in the vehicle in such a position as to be visible to passengers. Such a table must show full particulars of all tariffs calibrated on the meter.
- 17.2 Meters in use must not facilitate fraudulent use. Any signs of tampering including the breaking of any seals will result in a suspension notice being issued immediately. For the suspension notice to be removed, the vehicle meter must have been sealed and calibrated by an approved meter company and presented to the Council for inspection

## **18. CARRIAGE OF CHILDREN**

- 18.1 The carriage of children shall comply with the latest requirements set by legislation. Further guidance can be found at [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)
- 18.2 The vehicle should not carry children in pushchairs; the pushchair should be folded up and stored

## **19. CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

- 19.1 The proprietor shall notify the Council, in writing, of any change of address during the period of the licence, within seven days of such change taking place.

## **20. CONVICTIONS**

- 20.1 The proprietor shall, within seven days, disclose to the Council, in writing, details of any convictions, formal cautions, absolute discharges, or fixed penalties, imposed on him/her (or if the proprietor is a company or partnership, or any of the directors or partners) during the period of the licence.

## **21. DEPOSIT OF DRIVING LICENCE**

- 21.1 If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a Hackney Carriage vehicle, he shall, before that person commences to drive the vehicle, cause the driver to deliver to him his Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's licence for retention until such time as the

driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of his.

## **22. PERMITTED DRIVERS OF THE VEHICLE**

- 22.1 The proprietor or any other person permitted or employed to drive the vehicle as a Hackney Carriage vehicle, must be the holder of a current Private Hire driver's licence or a dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver licence granted by Denbighshire County Council according with Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

## **23. DEPOSIT OF VEHICLE LICENCE**

- 23.1 The proprietor shall, upon the vehicle commencing work with operator, deposit with the operator this licence for retention by him until such time as that vehicle ceases to work for that operator.

## **24. INSPECTION AND TESTING**

- 24.1 The proprietor shall, if requested by an Authorised Officer of the Council or a Police Officer, make the vehicle available for inspection and testing at such time and date as may be specified. Such inspections and testing shall be in addition to any other statutory provisions.

## **25. COLLISION**

- 25.1 The proprietor shall report to the Licensing Officer, in writing, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any such event within 72 hours of the occurrence thereof, any accident to the vehicle causing damage materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers therein.
- 25.2 In the event of a licence being suspended due to the nature of the damage, the proprietor shall have the vehicle tested at a nominated testing station and submit the compliance certificate for examination prior to the licence being re-instated.

## **26. LICENSING POLICY**

- 26.1 The Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (this document) shall be adhered to at all times.