

HACKNEY CARRIAGES CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

The proprietor shall observe and perform the following terms and conditions in respect of hackney carriages:

1. All vehicles shall be white in colour.
2. Adhesive signs be affixed on the upper part of the driver and front passenger side doors indicating that the vehicle is licensed by the Council with the number of the vehicle in letters no smaller than 3" in height.
3. The licence plate shall be fixed and displayed outside on the rear of the vehicle directly on or immediately above the bumper in such a position that the vehicle's registration mark is not obscured, with the particulars there on facing outwards in such a manner and place that the licence plate is clearly visible by daylight from the road at the rear of the vehicle.
4. The licence disc and licence plate shall remain the property of the Council and shall be returned to them within seven days after the service on him of an appropriate notice by the Council in the event of the Hackney Carriage Licence ceasing to be in force in respect of the vehicle.
5. At all times, the proprietor shall during the currency of the licence keep in force in relation to the use of the hackney carriage, a policy of insurance issued on a minimum of third party basis by an approved insurance company and comply with the requirements of Part V1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.
6. A copy of the current Insurance Certificate in respect of the vehicle shall at all times be displayed on the windscreen of the vehicle so as to be available for inspection.
7. TESTING OF VEHICLES
 - 7.1 As a policy guideline, vehicles submitted for licensing for the first time must be less than 5 years old from the date of first registration or first use/date of manufacture if the vehicle is imported, with the exception of minibus type vehicles fitted with permanent automated tail lifts which may be aged up to 10 years on first licensing. Applications for converted or modified vehicles outside the M1 Vehicle Type approval category must be accompanied by a full service history and appropriate safety certification including a Voluntary Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) Certificate issued by the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).
 - 7.2 Vehicles aged up to 10 years old from the date of first registration, or first use/date of manufacture if the vehicle is imported, will be tested twice a year.

- 7.3 Vehicles that are 10 years or older, from the date of first registration, or first use/date of manufacture if the vehicle is imported, will be tested three times a year.
8. No signs or advertisements shall be displayed in, on or from the vehicle unless first approved by the Council in writing.
9. All vehicles, other than mini-buses must have rear seat belts fitted in accordance with Motor Vehicles (Fitting of Seat Belts) Regulations 1987.
10. All mini-buses licensed from 1st March 1999 must have seat belts fitted to all forward facing seats and where fitted must comply with the technical and installation requirements of regulations 46-48 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended).
11. An appliance for extinguishing fire must be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use and be a minimum of 2.0 kg dry powder meeting the requirements of European Standard BS EN3:1996, such extinguisher to be fixed on the vehicle in such a position as to be readily available for use and maintained in good working order at all times. Any previously approved appliance may continue to be carried until its expiry date has elapsed or is found to be in an unserviceable condition.
12. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause to be carried within the vehicle, a first aid kit of no less a standard than the "Industrial Size No. 1 Kit" required under the Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.
13. The licensee of any vehicle licensed under the Council's special policy for wheelchair accessible vehicles must ensure that the vehicle is wheelchair accessible at all times and carry such ramps etc that are necessary. The maximum seating capacity of the vehicle will be specified in the licence and must include provision for at least one wheelchair.
14. The proprietor shall not cause or suffer or permit to be conveyed in the vehicle a greater number of persons exclusive of the driver than the number of persons specified in the licence provided.
15. The Licensee shall obtain any necessary planning permission for any premises intended to be used for Private Hire or Hackney Carriages and shall not engage in or allow such business to be carried on from any premises until any necessary planning permission has been so obtained.
16. All remould/retread tyres, as from 3rd February 1999 must be marked and comply with the current BS number.
17. Every "estate car" type vehicle which has more than four seats must have a means of opening the rear tailgate from the inside and signs indicating "Emergency Exit" and the method of operation to open the door must be clearly marked on the inside of the door.

18. Where the licence fee is paid by cheque which is subsequently dishonoured and any licence issued shall be revoked as from the date on which the Licensee is notified of such revocation.
19. A Certificate issued by the Council indicating that a vehicle is licensed as a Hackney Carriage shall be displayed on the left hand side of the windscreen of such vehicle in such a position that it can be easily seen from the front of the vehicle.
20. The proprietor shall cause the number of the licence to be fixed and displayed on the vehicle at all times this number to be displayed by means of a licence disc and licence plate and door signs issued by the Council to the proprietor.
21. The licence disc shall be fixed and displayed inside the vehicle in such manner and place that the particulars there on are clear and visible to any passenger being conveyed in the vehicle.
22. On being so required by an authorised officer, the proprietor shall produce to that officer for examination a Certificate of Insurance issued by an approved insurance company in respect of the vehicle for the purposes of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (as amended) provided that if the proprietor fails to produce such Certificate to the officer on request, the proprietor shall within five days of such request produce it to that officer or to any other authorised officer at the Council's Offices.
23. Any alteration in the design of the vehicle to the machinery or the body shall be reported to the Council who may require the proprietor to submit the vehicle for further examination.
24. The proprietor of a Hackney Carriage shall cause the table of fares fixed by the Council to be exhibited inside the carriage, such table to be of clearly distinguishable letters and figures, together with a notice displaying the limitations on the fare rates and charges to be made.
25. The proprietor shall inform the Council within 72 hours of any accident to the vehicle where damage materially affects the safety, performance and appearance of the vehicle.
26. The proprietor shall ensure that the vehicle shall not be used under contract or purported contract for hire except at the rate of fares fixed by the Council for Hackney Carriages.
27. Without prejudice to the aforementioned provisions, the proprietor on receipt of a notice in writing from the Council shall present the Hackney Carriage Vehicle for inspection and testing by or on behalf of the Council.
28. The vehicle must be fitted with four road wheels, at least three doors and be of right hand drive.
29. The vehicle must be of sufficient seating capacity to carry at least four and not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver. The seating capacity, head and knee room shall be as follows:

- (a) Height (Inside): From the top of the seat cushion to the lowest part must be not less than 30”.
- (b) Knee Space: The measurement between the front of the rear seat and the rear of the driver’s seat be not less than 8” when the driver’s seat is in a position for a driver of average height.
- (c) Seat Width: The width of the back seat from the squab to the front edge must not be less than 17”.

Condition (c) above does not apply to rear facing seats in Council approved purpose built vehicles.

- (d) Rear Seat (Length): The length of the rear seat measured in a straight line over the majority of its length be such as to allow adequate seating accommodation to the extent of at least 16” per person.

30. If the vehicle is an estate car, it must be fitted with a grill/fitting sufficient to prevent luggage carried in the rear compartment from coming into contact with persons in the rear seat.

31. METER AND EQUIPMENT

The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the same to be provided with a taxi meter so constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements: that is to say:

- (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with a key, flag or other device the turning of which will bring the machinery of the taxi meter into action and cause the word “HIRED” to appear on the face of the taximeter;
- (b) such key, flag or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
- (c) when the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in clearly legible figures a fare not exceeding the rate of fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by distance on pursuance of the bylaw in that behalf;
- (d) the word “FARE” shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as to clearly apply to the fare recorded thereon;
- (e) the taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof are at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring.
- (f) the taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.

32. The hackney carriage must be fitted with an illuminated roof sign, so constructed to bear the word "TAXI" in plain letters at least two inches in height, with a further fluorescent sign of similar dimensions bearing the words "FOR HIRE" such sign being affixed to the front windscreen of the vehicle and wired to the taximeter so as to enable it to be extinguished during the carrying of a fare, for which the meter is in operation. The design of these signs is to be approved by the Council. This condition will not relate to the 'London type Taxi' where the flag indicating "FOR HIRE", attached to the meter is plainly visible.

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