

## **STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE**

### **Specification**

1. The engine capacity of the vehicle must not be less than 1600cc (nominal).
2. The vehicle type shall be either :
  - (a) A London-type taxi; or
  - (b) An approved Euro-cab
3. The vehicle must be right-hand drive.

### **Excise Licence and Insurance**

4. Throughout the period a vehicle is licensed for use as a Hackney Carriage, there must be in force a Vehicle excise licence of the appropriate class and an appropriate policy of insurance, which must be fully comprehensive and cover liability for both passengers and luggage.
5. Proof of excise licensing and insurance must be produced at the time of application for a licence and at such other times as the Council may require.

### **Colour**

6. All approved vehicles must be painted their original colour.

### **Tyres**

7. All Road wheels and the spare wheel of the vehicle must be fitted with tyres of the same type, either radial or cross ply.

### **Vehicle Age**

8. (a) London-type taxis up to the age of 10 years so calculated, and approved Euro Cabs will be licenced for periods of 12 months.  
(b) A Vehicle in excess of the ages specified in (a) will be licenced only exceptionally, where the Council is fully satisfied as to the mechanical condition and reliability and the standard of passenger comfort, having regard to the intended use, and the period of licence may, at the Councils discretion, be restricted to six months. The fee for any licence of such restricted duration will be the same as for a licence of 12 months.

### **Mirrors**

9. Either two wing mirrors or two door mirrors must be fitted, one on each side of the vehicle, so as to afford the driver adequate vision to the rear. Additional mirrors may be fitted, but not in such a position as to obstruct the driver's clear view of the two mirrors required by this condition.

## **Seating**

10. (a) Vehicles must be capable of carrying not less than four or more than eight passengers (excluding the driver) and the maximum number of passengers permitted to be carried will be specified on the licence and on the Hackney Carriage plate issued by the Council.
- (b) The Council, in determining such number, will take in account the number of seat belts available to passengers.
- (c) Children under the age of ten years must not be carried in front seat(s), if fitted.
- (d) Safety belts must be fitted and maintained in good order on all passenger seats (except as the law may otherwise provide in relation to London-type taxis).

## **Roof signs**

11. (a) Every vehicle licenced as a Hackney Carriage must be fitted with a roof sign bearing the words "TAXI" or "FOR HIRE" in letters not less than two-and-a-half inches high and which shall be illuminated during the hours of darkness, except when the vehicle is not for hire. Optionally, the same sign may also display the proprietors name and/or telephone number, which must not be in letters larger than those used for the words "TAXI" or "FOR HIRE" as the case may be, but no other advertising matter.
- (b) A roof sign meeting the specification in paragraph (a) above in relation to content, size of lettering and illumination may be fitted to the side of the vehicle, where the vehicle has no gutters or other means of affixing a sign to the roof, subject to the prior approval in writing of the Licensing Authority in each case.
- (c) No roof sign other than that prescribed in this condition will be permitted.

## **Two-way Radio Equipment**

12. The position of any two-way radio equipment to be fitted in a vehicle must be approved in advance by the Councils Licensing Officer in relation to passenger and driver safety.

## **Inspection and Testing**

13. (a) Prior to the granting or renewal of a Licence, the vehicle must be presented for inspection and testing at a mutually agreed time at a garage appointed for this purpose by the Council.
- (b) An authorised officer or agent of the Council will carry out the inspection, which will include the condition of the bodywork and interior as well as the mechanical condition of the vehicle, and will issue a vehicle inspection report indicating the compliance or otherwise of the vehicle with the Councils requirements.
- (c) Subject to the vehicle passing the inspection, the vehicle inspection report must be forthwith be delivered by the applicant to the Licensing Officer, who will thereupon issue a Certificate of Compliance.

(d) Where a vehicle fails the inspection, a further charge will be payable by the applicant for any re-inspection.

(e) The Council may require the vehicle to be submitted for examination on not more than three further occasions in a year and the Licensee must comply with such requirement.

(f) No vehicle may be used as a Hackney Carriage without a Certificate of Compliance being in force.

### **Hackney Carriage Plate**

14. (a) Subject to compliance with the other requirements of these Conditions, the Council will issue a Hackney Carriage Plate.

(b) Such plate must be securely fixed in a prominent position on the outside of the vehicle, or above the rear bumper.

(c) When the vehicle ceases to be used as a Hackney Carriage, the plate must be returned to the Council within seven days. (Note: Failure to comply with this requirement constitutes an offence, which may result in proceedings being taken against the Licensee.)

### **Table of Fares**

15. A printed copy of the table of fares currently approved by the Council must be prominently displayed in the passenger compartment of the vehicle and the fare charged to any passenger shall not exceed that table.

### **Taxi Meters**

16. (a) The vehicle must be fitted with a taxi meter visibly recording the passenger fare payable in accordance with the table of fares currently approved by the Council and the position of the taxi meter must be agreed by the Council's Licensing Officer.

(b) The operation of the taxi-meter must be in accordance with the provisions of the Byelaws in force for the time being within the Three Rivers District with respect to Hackney Carriages.

### **External Advertisements**

17. Not more than two external advertisements (excluding the roof signs) may be carried on any vehicle, confined to the side panels and must comply with the Advertising Standards Authority code of advertising.

### **Accidents**

18. In accordance with Section 50(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, any accident to a Hackney Carriage causing damage materially affecting the safety, appearance or performance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers must be reported to the Council within 72 hours. The Licensing Officer of the Council may thereupon require a further certificate of compliance to be issued in respect of the vehicle and the costs of the necessary vehicle inspection will be payable by the Licensee. Where a

further certificate of compliance is required, the vehicle must not be used as a Hackney Carriage until such a certificate has been issued.

### **Alterations**

19. No material alternation or change in specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the approval of the Council at any time while the Licence is in force.

### **Safety Equipment**

20. A suitable fire extinguisher, of a nominal capacity of 1.5kg and meeting the current specifications of the British Standards Institution and a suitable first aid kit must be carried within the vehicle at all times in such a position as to be easily visible and readily available for use.

### **Fees**

21. The fees payable for Licenses and other charges described in these Conditions will be in accordance with the scale approved by the Council from time to time.

### **Byelaws**

22. The vehicle will also be subject to compliance with such Byelaws relating to Hackney Carriages as may be in force for the time being within the Three Rivers District.