

## **Requirements Relating Only To Hackney Carriage Vehicles**

### **Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (“the 1847 Act”) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (“the 1976 Act”)**

#### **1. General**

- All new hackney carriage vehicle licences issued shall be for a purpose built hackney carriage, capable of conveying a disabled person whilst seated in a wheelchair. The vehicle must be adapted or designed by the manufacturer or his agent, to carry at least one wheelchair bound passenger. Please check with the Licensing Department that the vehicle you intend to purchase meets the condition. Vehicles of a type currently licensed as a hackney carriage in London are acceptable.
- Other wheelchair accessible vehicles will be specifically approved by the Council for use as hackney carriages, subject to them meeting the following minimum requirements;
- The wheelchair access should be available from the kerbside with the wheelchair facing forward and being secured to a CE type approved, manufacturer installed anchorage system for the chair. The passenger secured to a CE approved, manufacturer installed seat belt anchorage system
- Passenger door dimensions to be not less than the minimum currently required of hackney carriages in London.
- To improve access to disabled persons all hackney carriages licensed in compliance with the wheelchair accessibility requirements may only be changed to vehicles that similarly meet that standard
- The vehicle shall have three or four doors (a rear-opening hatch back will not be considered or counted as a door for the means of entry or egress, except that a multi-purpose vehicle may have a single sliding door to the left hand side of the vehicle)

#### **2. Hackney Carriage Occupancy Plate**

When licensed, the vehicle shall have an authorised occupancy plate fixed to the rear of the vehicle. The plate shall be securely and permanently fixed to the vehicle on or above the bumper and be clearly visible. The plate shall be secured to the vehicle by the use of a bracket. If a bracket is not suitable or practicable, then the plate shall be fixed with the aid of screws or bolts.

#### **3. Hackney Carriage Internal Plate**

When licensed, the vehicle shall have an authorised internal plate. This is to be displayed in the front of the vehicle in such a way as to be clearly visible from the inside and the outside of the vehicle.

#### **4. Taximeter**

All hackney carriage vehicles shall be fitted with a taximeter installed by an authorised taximeter company and so constructed, attached, and maintained as to comply with the following requirement:

- All new hackney carriage vehicles shall require a calendar controlled tariff taximeter
- The taximeter shall be fitted with a key flag or other device the turning of which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word “hired” to appear on the face of the meter
- Such key, flag or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position indicating that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter
- 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 or fare which the licensee or driver is entitled to demand and take for hire of the vehicle by distance in pursuance of the table of fares made by the Council in that behalf
- The word “fare” shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon

- 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 vehicle, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring
- The taximeter shall be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of a hiring which is during the hours of darkness as defined for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act 1972, and also at the request of the hirer
- The taximeter shall have connected thereto a roof sign bearing the words "TAXI" in accordance with paragraph 8 below and such sign shall be plainly visible and legible to persons wishing to hire the vehicle and for that purpose it shall be capable of being suitably illuminated when the vehicle is plying or standing for hire
- The taximeter and all its fittings shall be so affixed to the vehicle 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
- When the vehicle is standing or plying for hire or returning from another district the key flag or other device fitted with the taximeter shall be locked in the position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter
- Before beginning a journey for which a fare is to be charged for distance and time, the taximeter should be brought into action so that the word "hired" is legible on the face of the taximeter and the taximeter should be kept on until the hiring has terminated
- The taximeter and its fittings will be sealed by the installer
- The taximeter shall be calibrated and sealed by the taximeter company at first installation and then when a seal is broken or missing, following a change to the table of fares, or when requested by the Council. The certificate of calibration is to be provided by the taximeter installer. A valid certificate should be produced on transfer, change or renewal of a licence.

## **5. Signs etc**

No sign, notice, advertisement, plate, mark, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices shall be used, if it contains anything of a religious or political nature or advertises tobacco, alcohol, any sex related establishment (shop or venue), or contains any matter likely to cause offence. Approval on the type and extent of the advertising should be sought from the licensing officer. A charge will be payable as detailed in this policy

## **6. Roof signs**

The minimum sign dimensions for roof signs are 10" wide 5" deep and 4" high, there are no maximum measurements. The word taxi only in black capital letters to be clearly legible on the front and rear side of the roof sign. The front of the sign must be white and the back red or white. Purpose built taxis are exempt from these requirements.

The sign must be illuminated when plying or available for hire during the hours of darkness and must be linked to the taximeter so that when a fare is being carried, the roof sign is not illuminated.

## **7. Taxi ranks and stands**

Hackney carriages can operate from authorised ranks or stands, including 'shared' stands or ply the carriageway for hire or can be pre-booked.