

Summary of Changes - Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE POLICY	
Policy Area	Description of Change
Age limit	No change
Engine size	Amended policy so that engine size is not prescribed. Removing the requirement that engines had to be at least 1600 cc will allow electric and hybrid vehicles to be licensed as hackney carriages
Type of vehicle	Removed reference to vehicles carrying swivel cushions. This policy has not been applicable to new vehicles since February 2010 Also combined descriptions of which vehicles can be licensed, and added in the vehicle type of 'hatchback'
Vehicle modifications	Clarified that any modifications to a vehicle must be formally approved, with documentation to certify that the works meet regulations, in order to establish that the vehicle is still safe and suitable for use
Stretch limousines	Clarified that no stretch limousine would be considered for a hackney carriage licence
Seating capacity	Amended policy so that vehicles will be licensed to carry the number of passengers as permitted by the logbook. Also confirms that any changes to capacity must be approved by the licensing authority, to allow the licence to be updated as and when required and also to allow checks to confirm that the vehicle is still safe and roadworthy
Window tints	Amended policy to allow window tints
Left hand drive	Clarified that left hand drive will generally not be suitable for licensing as a hackney carriage as it does not provide safe nearside access - passengers may be forced not directly onto the pavement, but into the road instead
Limit on number of licences	No change
Documents to be	Clarified that all vehicles must have passed an MOT no more than 30 days prior to licensing, regardless of the

provided	age of the vehicle (as new vehicles do not require MOTs for private use until they are 3 years old)
Condition of vehicle upon inspection	No change
Plates and brackets	No change
Taximeter	No change
Meter calibration	No change
8 passenger vehicles	Amended policy to remove requirement that all vehicles licensed for 8 passengers must display prescribed signs advising the location of the emergency exit, and means of operation

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS		
Old Condition	New Condition(s)	Description of change
1	N/A	Removed as redundant. Refer to policy changes for 'type of vehicle'
2	N/A	Removed condition relating to external mirrors. All vehicles which are suitable to be licensed for hackney carriage purposes will be manufactured with two external wing mirrors as standard
3	6	Removed reference to vehicle being fitted with all radial or cross-ply tyres. The legal requirement is that tyres on the same axle are of the same type. All tyres do <u>not</u> need to be of the same type. Also removed reference to carrying spare wheel. Manufacturers no longer provide spare wheels as standard. Instead manufacturers are favouring the provision of equipment such as canisters, which inflate or fill damaged tyres (e.g. with foam) as a short-term fix. Condition is amended to allow carriage of such equipment. Where vehicles do have a spare wheel, they will still comply with this condition
4	3 (1) – 3 (3)	Clarified that roof signs (except integrated signs) should state "Taxi" in black type on a white background on the front and "For Hire" in black type on a red background on the reverse. This is our existing policy
5	7	Amended condition to simply state that position of taxi meter must be approved by the Council.
6	5	Updated condition so that it does not just refer to two-way radio equipment. This takes into account the fact that drivers have other equipment in their vehicles, such as PDAs and satellite navigation systems.
7	3 (4) – 3 (6) 4	No change
8	9 (1) – 9 (4)	Only change is to clarify that any equipment which is carried, such as ramps and straps, must be permanently and legibly marked with the registration of the vehicle. This is our existing policy
9	10	Amended to state that drivers must have either have passed DVSA wheelchair assessment for taxis and private hire vehicles, or have taken an approved disability awareness course. This reflects driver licence policy which has been recently amended to require all new drivers to take an approved disability awareness

		course prior to being licensed for the first time
10	11	No change
11	N/A	Removed condition requiring seats to be securely fixed. No vehicle would be passed as being roadworthy if the seats could not be secured or locked into a fixed position
12	12 (1) – 12 (3)	Amended condition to expand upon the definition of luggage compartment for different vehicles, not just estate vehicles
13	N/A	Removed condition requiring provision of luggage straps, freeing drivers to choose their own method of securing luggage and not tying them down to specific requirements relating to measurements etc. Providing means of securing luggage are required by the hackney carriage bye-laws, but are not restrictive
14	13	No change
15	14	Amended condition to cover all doors which access luggage compartment, so that no luggage is in a position where it can fall out of the vehicle
N/A	1 (1) – 1 (4)	Clarified that hackney carriage proprietors must maintain their vehicles in a suitable and clean condition. This is also required by the hackney carriage bye-laws. Also confirms that unsatisfactory modifications are not acceptable (provided that consent has been obtained from the Council to make such modifications)
N/A	2	Clarified that drivers must display their badges within their vehicles in the prescribed manner. This is also required by the hackney carriage bye-laws
N/A	3 (7)	Clarified that hackney carriage proprietors must maintain the plates on their vehicles in the prescribed manner and not allow the plate to become damaged or ineligible. This is also required by the general hackney carriage legislation.
N/A	5 (1) and 5 (2)	Clarified that hackney carriage proprietors must display at least 2 no-smoking stickers on their vehicles. This is our existing policy Also clarified that only approved stickers should be on the windscreen (as well as what stickers are

		approved) and that no sticker should encroach more than 40mm into the swept area. The requirement about not encroaching more than 40mm into the swept area of the windscreen is a legal requirement under construction and use regulations
N/A	15	Clarified that a First Aid kit must be carried and maintained, but no longer with stipulated contents. This is an amendment to our existing policy, and is also required by Health and Safety at Work Act regulations
N/A	16	Clarified that a fire extinguisher must be carried and maintained. This is our existing policy, and is also required by the hackney carriage bye-laws
N/A	17	Clarified that any modifications to the vehicle must be approved by the Council, including any changes to seating capacity. This is our existing policy
Additional conditions for mini-buses, MPVs and 'stretch' limousines		
1	N/A	This is already policy and does not need to be included as a separate condition. Also makes reference to private hire vehicles which is potentially confusing on a hackney carriage licence
2	N/A	Removed as redundant. Age limits were superseded by changes approved by the Committee in March 2014
3	N/A	This is already policy and does not need to be included as a separate condition.
4	N/A	Removed as redundant. Provision of swivel seats no longer policy.
5	N/A	This is already policy and does not need to be included as a separate condition
6	N/A	Removed as redundant. Only applies to private hire vehicles
7	N/A	This is already policy and does not need to be included as a separate condition
8	N/A	Proposal is to remove because it is recommended to relax this policy. Refer to policy changes for 'seating capacity'