

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 47**  
**Existing Standard Conditions for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence**

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(1) **VEHICLE**

No vehicle shall be licensed for the first time as a hackney carriage unless it meets the following conditions:

(a) it is a purpose built London style hackney carriage or similar capable of carrying wheelchair-bound passengers in their wheelchair;

OR

(b) it is a saloon car, estate car or taxi conversion vehicle fitted with a swivel cushion and is capable of carrying a folded wheel-chair;

OR

(c) is a taxi conversion vehicle capable of carrying a passenger sitting in a wheel chair.

2. External Mirrors

Two external mirrors one to each side of the vehicle, must be fitted to allow the driver on adequate view to rear. Extra mirrors if fitted, must not interfere with the use of any other mirror.

3. Tyres and Wheels

The vehicle must be fitted with all radial or all cross-ply tyres, including the spare wheel is used in an emergency only.

The spare wheel must always be carried and the spare wheel and tyre must be the same as originally supplied with the vehicle and used only in accordance with the car manufacturer's instructions.

4. Roof Signs

Hackney carriages must be fitted with a roof sign which meet the approval of the Council's officers. A vehicle other than one with an integral "Taxi" sign must be fitted with a roof sign which is white in colour with the words "Taxi" in black writing on the front and "For Hire" in black writing on a red background, such sign being capable of being lit when the vehicle is plying for hire.

In addition vehicles capable of carrying passengers in a wheelchair and/or of having accommodation for wheelchairs must incorporate a sign indicating their purpose. The roof sign must cease to be lit when the taxi meter is brought into operation.

5. Taxi Meters

The position of the taxi meter must be prescribed by the Council's inspecting officer. Any intermediate gear box must be positioned so that the Council's seal can be affixed and also inspected on raising the vehicle bonnet.

6. Two-Way Radio Equipment

Before two-way radio equipment is installed the Head Of Environmental Services must be notified so that the equipment and proposed position may be tested in relation to passenger and driver safety and comfort. The vehicle must not be used as a hackney carriage before the equipment and position have been approved by the Council's inspecting officer.

7. Advertising

No advertisement sign of any nature shall be displayed on the vehicle other than an advertisement of a type to be authorised by the Council.

Door signs of a type and style approved by the Council's officers, such sign to contain the Watford Borough Council logo, and the words "Licensed Taxi", shall be displayed on the front doors of the vehicle.

The licence holder must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to display such signs at all times that the vehicle is hired, plying for hire (including waiting on a rank), on the way to collect a passenger or otherwise used as a hackney carriage.

8. Wheelchair access

A three-point seatbelt assembly together with suitable wheelchair restraints must be provided for the use of wheelchair occupants in vehicles capable of carrying passengers in their wheelchairs. Anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and chair bound disabled person to the latest industry standard. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other.

Anchorages must be provided for the safe stowage of a wheelchair when not in use, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints must be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers at any time.

A ramp(s) for the (un)loading of wheelchair passengers must be available at all times for the safe access and egress of passengers. Adequate locating device(s) must be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use. The ramp(s) must be of sufficient strength and stability such that they will not bend and will remain stable during use and must be of a safe working limit of at least 300 kg over its entire length. The ramp(s) must be capable of being stowed away securely and safely when not in use.

9. Where a hackney carriage is capable of carrying a passenger sitting in a wheelchair in the vehicle, the driver of the hackney carriage must have passed the wheelchair exercise element of the Driving Standards Agency test.

10. Receipts

The holder of this licence shall ensure that the driver of the vehicle offers to each passenger (or, if there are more than one passengers, at least one of those passengers) at the termination of their journey a receipt which shall contain at the least the following information:

- (1) the date
- (2) the fare for that journey
- (3) the number of the badge issued by Watford Borough Council to that driver
- (4) other information that may be specified in writing to the licence-holder by Council officers.

## **Extra Conditions Relating to Estate Cars**

### 11. Rear Seats

The rear seats of the vehicle must be securely fixed or folded down.

### 12. Luggage Compartment

For the purposes of bylaw 23 (iii) 'luggage compartment' means the space to the rear seats or when rear seats are folded down, the space to the rear of the front seat.

### 13. Luggage Straps

(a) (i) At least three pairs of brackets (of sufficient width to take 1" wide straps must be provided, secured firmly either to the base of the frame sides of the vehicle, one pair immediately behind the rear seats, one pair centrally placed at the sides, and one pair next to the tail gate or rear doors.

(ii) At least three strong flexible straps of webbing or leather not less than 1" wide and of a length not less than 1½ times the width of the luggage compartment must be provided.

(iii) All luggage must be firmly secured by means of the said straps and the said brackets or

(b) (i) A dog guard (a grille) may be securely fitted behind the rearmost seat as an alternative to 12(a) above.

### 14. Large Packages

No packages shall be allowed to protrude from the luggage compartment over any of the seats which may be occupied, or outside the vehicle.

### 15. Tail Gate or Rear Doors

The tail gate or rear doors must be locked shut when the vehicle is in motion.

**Additional conditions approved by the Environmental Health and Licensing Committee on 3 October 2001 and amended by the Licensing Committee on 5 July 2010 for the licensing of mini-buses, multi-purpose vehicles and 'stretch' limousines:**

- 1 the Council's standard requirements for licensed vehicles are met, apart from the requirement that private hire vehicles must have at least four doors;
- 2 no mini-bus may be older than 3 years old or multi-purpose vehicle older than 4 years old at the date of first being licensed;
- 3 the vehicle allows for safe near-side access and egress for passengers;
- 4 wherever possible, vehicles must be fitted with a swivel-seat or other aids for disabled customers;
- 5 vehicles with unusual features, such as tail-gate lifts or hoists, will be examined on a case-by-case basis;
- 6 no 'stretch' limousine will be licensed for more than six months at a time, and no licence will be issued for such a vehicle that is more than ten years of age;
- 7 vehicles with completely tinted windows will not be licensed;
- 8 [For vehicles first licensed from 26 September 2011]  
The licensed vehicle shall carry no more passengers than can be seated in full-size, fixed seats, providing that:
  - (i) rear-seat passengers are able to use a door other than the driver's or front passenger door
  - (ii) the vehicle can sufficiently accommodate a reasonable amount of luggage; and
  - (iii) there shall be sufficient room between the seats to allow adequate room for the movement of passengers. These shall also be adequate head and leg room to allow passengers to be conveyed in comfort and safety and there shall be 180 mm from the back of the front seat to the front of the rear seat when the front seat is fully pushed back.

For the purposes of this condition, the following will not be counted:

- (i) seats considered to be flip-up or folding seats (other than in London-style purpose-built hackney carriages)
- (ii) those considered by the Council's officers to be unsuitable for the carriage of members of the public.