

Summary of Changes – Private Hire Vehicle Licences

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE POLICY	
Policy Area	Description of Change
No age limits	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 private hire vehicles
Stretch limos	No change
No livery requirements	No change
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
Window tints	Amended policy to allow window tints that are not factory fitted (note these will still be required to be approved)
Left hand drive	Clarified that left-hand drive vehicles will generally not be suitable for licensing as a private hire as it does not provide safe near side access - passengers may be forced not directly onto the pavement, but into the road instead
Carrying of luggage	Amended policy to remove wording that required vehicles to accommodate a 'reasonable' amount of luggage. It is still a condition of the private hire driver's licence that they must convey a reasonable amount of luggage when requested by a passenger
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
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
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

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS		
Old Condition	New Condition	Description of change
1	1	No change
2	N/A	Removed reference to vehicles not being painted white with a black bonnet. Such a condition was necessary when hackney carriages were liveried, but this condition is now redundant
N/A	2	Added condition requiring vehicle to be kept to specific standard. Also confirms that unsatisfactory modifications are not acceptable (provided that consent has been obtained from the Council to make such modifications)
4	N/A	Removed condition relating to external mirrors. All vehicles which are suitable to be licensed for private hire purposes will be manufactured with two external wing mirrors as standard
5	3	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 comply with this condition
6	4	Amended condition to simply state that position of taxi meter must be approved by the Council.
7	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
8	6	Amended condition so that it now reads that a 'suitable' and efficient fire extinguisher is provided and maintained. The current policy - that a 1kg dry powder fire extinguisher be provided and maintained within the vehicle - remains and is not changing

9	N/A	Removed condition requiring vehicles to operate on unleaded petrol. No new vehicles will be manufactured to run on leaded petrol
12	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
14	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
15	9	Condition regarding not allowing large packages to protrude from the vehicle or to obstruct any seats has not changed. However, have included definition of luggage compartment to condition for clarity (similar definition to that which is included on hackney carriage vehicle licence)
N/A	12	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
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
2	N/A	Removed mention of age limits on vehicles, as our policy is that there are no age limits applicable to private hire vehicles
3	N/A	Removed reference to vehicles carrying swivel cushions. This policy has not been applicable to new vehicles since February 2010
4	N/A	This is already policy and does not need to be included as a separate condition
7	14	Amended condition so that vehicles will be licensed to carry the number of passengers as permitted by the logbook. Also confirms that any changes to permitted numbers must be notified to the licensing authority, to allow the licence to be updated as and when required