

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976
EXISTING STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

1. Plates
The plates (provided by the Council and which remain the property of the Council) identifying the vehicle as a private hire vehicle in respect of which this licence has been granted must be affixed to the vehicle in such manner and position as shall be prescribed by the Council's inspecting Officer.

2. Colours of Vehicle
The vehicle must not be painted white with a black bonnet and black boot.

3. Advertisement Signs
 - (1) No advertisement sign of any nature may be displayed on the vehicle other than:
 - (a) the Council's official plate;
 - (b) a tinted windscreen strip MAY be mounted on the upper part of the windscreen and may include the operator name (but may not contain the words "Taxi" or "Cab") and telephone number, providing such signage does not encroach more than 40 mm into the area swept by the windscreen wipers. An identical sign bearing the same words and of the same dimensions may also be displayed in the same position in the rear windscreen providing that adequate rear view vision is maintained; and
 - (c) door signs MUST be permanently applied to the driver's and front passenger door of such dimensions and colours as may from time to time be approved by the Council; must bear the words "Private Hire - Advance Bookings Only"; the operator's name and/or telephone number, but may not contain the words "Taxi" or "Cab".
 - (2) Where an Exemption Certificate has been issued for the vehicle by the Council, a magnetic sign may be applied instead to the driver's and front passenger door providing that it meets the requirements stated in paragraph 1(c) and in addition contains in prominent figures the number of the vehicle plate issued to that vehicle. The magnetic signs must be displayed on the vehicle whilst it is being used for Non-Contract Work and may be removed whilst being used for Contract Work.
 - (3) Within this condition:

Contract Work means journeys undertaken for hire or reward as part of a regular course of business with a particular client or customer as determined to the satisfaction of the Head of Community & Customer Services;

Non-Contract Work means all other journeys for hire or reward including those conducted for the purposes of conveying children to or from any school or educational establishment.

4. External Mirrors
Either two wing mirrors or two door mirrors must be fitted one on each side of the vehicle to afford the driver adequate vision to the rear. Extra mirrors may be fitted if desired, but these must not interfere with the clear vision of the driver in the wing or door mirrors.

5. Tyres And Wheels

The vehicle must be fitted with all radial or all cross-ply tyres. All wheels in contact with the road must be of the same type, except where a spare wheel is used in an emergency only.

A 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.

6. Meters

Any taxi meter or other device for recording fares and/or mileage must be of a type approved by the Council and must be fitted in such a position and manner as shall be prescribed by the Council's inspecting Officer.

7. Two-way Radio Equipment

Before two-way radio equipment is installed in the vehicle, the Head of Environment, Health and Licensing 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 private hire vehicle before the equipment and position have been approved by the Council's inspecting officer.

8. Fire Extinguisher

An efficient fire extinguisher must be fitted and maintained in the vehicle.

9. Lead-Free Petrol

The vehicle if driven by a petrol engine shall be capable of operating on lead-free petrol.

10. Identity Badge

There shall be displayed so that it is visible from the rear seat on the dashboard of the vehicle, whilst it is available and used for hire, and identity style badge as provided by, and which shall remain the property of, the Council, which shall be incorporated in it a photograph of the driver's face and the driver's badge number.

11. 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

12. **Rear Seats**

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

13. **Luggage Compartment**

'Luggage compartment' means the space at the rear of the rear seats or, when the rear seats are folded down, the space to the rear of the front seats.

14. **Luggage Straps**

- (a) (i) At least three pairs of brackets (sufficient width to take 1" wide straps) for luggage straps must be provided, secured firmly either to the base or to 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 door.
- (ii) At least three strong flexible straps of webbing or leather not less than 1" wide and of a length not less than 1 and half times the width of the luggage compartment must be provided.
- (iii) All luggage must be firmly secured by means of the said brackets.
- (b) A dog guard (a grill) may be securely fitted behind the rearmost seat as an alternative to 11(a) above.

15. **Large Packages**

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

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 at the date of first being licensed;
- 3 wherever possible, vehicles must be fitted with a swivel-seat or other aids for disabled customers;
- 4 vehicles with unusual features, such as tail-gate lifts or hoists, will be examined on a case-by-case basis;
- 5 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;
- 6 vehicles with completely tinted windows will not be licensed;
- 7 For vehicles first licensed after 1 August 2010:
 - (1) There shall be sufficient room between the seats to allow adequate room for the movement of passengers. There 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
 - (2) The arrangements of the seats shall be such that no person has to remove, push forward or dismantle any seat or other obstacle; nor should it be necessary to climb over any person being carried in the vehicle or require any person to leave their seat to allow anyone to enter or leave the vehicle.
 - (3) If the seating arrangement does not allow free access to and from the vehicle then in the interests of public safety and comfort the Council will require as many seats as may be necessary to be removed or to licence a vehicle to carry fewer passengers than it has seats.