

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

PRE-LICENSING STANDARDS

1. The vehicle must:

- 1.1. When first submitted for licensing, must be less than 4 years of age.
- 1.2. At the time of renewal of the licence be no more than 10 years of age, except for wheelchair accessible vehicles, which must be no more than 15 years of age.
- 1.3. Speciality vehicles, classic vehicles and limousines can be more than 4 years of age at first point of licensing and will have no upper age limit, but must be subject to testing at a frequency according to age. These vehicles will also be exempt from other further requirements which may not be applicable to the vehicle type, at the discretion of the Licensing Department.
- 1.4. Any vehicle accepted for licensing as a Private Hire Vehicle after, may only be replaced by a vehicle that is younger by reference to the dates of first registration.
- 1.5. Be right hand drive, in good mechanical order and body condition and in operational order in every respect.
- 1.6. Be suitable in size and design for use as a Private Hire Vehicle and to the manufacturers specification have:
 - 1.6.1. Rear Seat (width): The width of the rear seats, measured in a straight line widthways on the front edge of the seat must be such as will allow adequate seating accommodation to the extent of a minimum of 42cm (16 ½ ").
 - 1.6.2. Seats (length): The length of the seat from the squab to the front edge must be a minimum of 43cm (17")
 - 1.6.3. Knee Space: The measurement between the rear of the front seats and the squab of the backseat must be a minimum of 66cm (26") with the front seat at its centre point.
- 1.7. Have a minimum of 4 doors, each adjacent to and allowing direct access to and from the seats.
- 1.8. Have manufacturers recommended sized tyres (remould tyres are not acceptable).
- 1.9. Have rear seat accommodation for not less than three passengers, unless the safe carriage of a passenger seated in a wheelchair necessitates the removal of any seat(s).
- 1.10. Have accommodation for not less than 4 passengers.

- 1.11. Have appropriate seatbelts to the front and rear seats of the vehicle. The number of seatbelts fitted to the vehicle shall correspond with the number of passengers the vehicle is licensed to carry, plus a belt for the driver.
- 1.12. Have, in addition to the driver, up to 2 passenger seats in the front of the vehicle, provided each seat has a separate lap/diagonal seat belt.
- 1.13. Have adequate luggage facilities, which must be provided separate from the passenger-carrying compartment. All vehicles must be capable of carrying a wheelchair, folded down if appropriate, in a reasonable manner.

2. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

- 2.1. Shall be equipped with properly mounted fittings for the safe securing of a wheelchair and the passenger seated in it when carried inside the vehicle.

3. Minibus and Multi Passenger Vehicles

- 3.1. Any seat adjacent to the nearside door of the passenger compartment of a licensed vehicle must be removed, where necessary, to permit a clear and unobstructed entry to and exit from the back row seating compartment.
- 3.2. No person entering or exiting the licensed vehicle should have to remove or dismantle any seat or other obstacle, climb over any person being carried in the vehicle, or have any other person leave their seat to facilitate them entering or exiting the vehicle.

4. Tinted Windows

- 4.1. Tinted windows will not be permitted without the prior approval of the Licensing Department, the only exceptions to that are likely to be considered are for vehicles with a plate exemption or limousines.

5. Taximeter

- 5.1. If a taximeter is fitted it:
 - 5.1.1. Shall be fitted with an efficient taximeter that is capable of visibly recording fares by measuring distance and time and calculating fares for all lengths and duration of journeys equivalent to the maximum fare tariff set by the Taxi Operator. The taximeter shall be calibrated to only allow the use of the aforementioned tariff for the calculation of fares and no others.

6. Vehicle Inspections

- 6.1. Thurrock Council reserves the right to examine any vehicle before the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle licence in order to ascertain that the vehicle conforms

to all current legislation, licensing criteria and licensing conditions. Such examination does not guarantee the grant of a licence.

6.2. The applicant shall submit the vehicle for an MOT and compliance inspection and/or other inspections as the Council may require at one of the Council approved garages as follows:

6.2.1. Upon initial application (regardless of the age of the vehicle)

6.2.2. Annually in respect of vehicles up to 5 years old.

6.2.3. Six monthly in respect of vehicles over 5 years old and up to 8 years old.

6.2.4. Four monthly in respect of vehicles over 8 years old

7. Production of Documentation

7.1. All applicants for a Private Hire Vehicle licence shall produce the following documents prior to the issue of a licence and at any time when requested to do so by the Council (documents must be current at the time the licence commences):

7.1.1. A current MOT test certificate

7.1.2. A valid vehicle compliance certificate issued by Thurrock Council approved testing garage, or other such certificate as may be required from time to time by Thurrock Council.

7.1.3. An insurance certificate or cover note, which expressly indicates cover for private hire and reward.

7.1.4. The vehicle registration document showing the applicants name and address.

7.1.5. New applications and transfer notifications must also include proof of ownership by means of bill of sale or hire purchase agreement.