

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE

PRE-LICENSING STANDARDS

1. The vehicle must:

- 1.1. Be wheelchair accessible with 8 or less passenger seats. Those Hackney Carriage proprietors whose vehicles were a saloon, estate or multi-passenger vehicle on 1 August 2013 will be permitted to replace their vehicle with a vehicle that is not wheelchair accessible, if the licence is transferred to a new proprietor then any replacement vehicle thereafter must be a wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- 1.2. When first submitted for licensing, must be less than 4 years of age.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Any vehicle accepted for licensing as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle, 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 Hackney Carriage 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 back 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 back 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 separate from the passenger-carrying compartment. All vehicles must be capable of carrying a wheelchair, folded down if appropriate, in a reasonable manner.
 - 1.13.1. In London style vehicles, the area next to the driver shall be deemed to be the luggage space and no seating shall be permitted there.

2. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

- 2.1. Any proprietor who has a Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence for a wheelchair accessible vehicle, must in future, only replace the vehicle with a wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- 2.2. Permit loading of wheelchairs ONLY through the side door(s) of the vehicle. Vehicles that load wheelchairs through the tailgate will not be accepted for licensing. Those Hackney Carriage proprietors whose vehicles are side loading on 1 August 2013 shall replace their vehicle with a vehicle that is rear loading, if the vehicle is changed or when the licence is renewed after the vehicle reaches 10 years of age.
- 2.3. 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, including factory fitted tinted windows, will not be permitted without the prior approval of the Licensing authority. Those Hackney Carriage proprietors, whose vehicles have tinted windows on 1 August 2013, may remain licensed until the vehicle is replaced.

5. Taximeter

5.1. The vehicle 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 Thurrock Council. The taximeter shall be calibrated to only allow the use of the aforementioned tariff for the calculation of fares and no others.

6. LPG Vehicles

6.1. A hackney carriage proprietor converting their licensed vehicle to run on Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) must notify the Council of such change and comply with the following pre-licensing conditions. These conditions will also apply to proprietors purchasing a new or used vehicle that runs on LPG:

6.1.1. That the installation of a LPG tank be undertaken by a Liquid Petroleum Gas Association (LPGA) approved installer.

6.1.2. That the proprietor produces a certificate of compliance by an approved LPGA installer.

6.1.3. That the LPG tank fitted must be a multi-valve tank and be fitted with a sealed tank box made from aluminium and vented to the atmosphere.

6.1.4. That the vehicle displays on the front and rear screens, a sticker stating that the vehicle has been fitted with a LPG tank for the purpose of alerting the emergency services in the event of an accident.

6.1.5. A doughnut tank is fitted in the spare wheel well of the boot, the spare wheel must be securely fixed in a position not obstructing the entire luggage space.

6.1.6. The proprietor of the vehicle must notify DVLA Swansea, of the change in fuel from petrol to both LPG and petrol.

6.1.7. The vehicle is serviced by a person competent in LPG powered vehicles.

7. Vehicle Inspections

7.1. Thurrock Council reserves the right to examine any vehicle before the grant of a Hackney Carriage 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.

7.2. 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:

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

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

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

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

8. Production of Documentation

8.1. All applicants for a Hackney Carriage 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):

8.1.1. A current MOT test certificate

8.1.2. 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.

8.1.3. An insurance certificate or cover note, which expressly indicates cover for public hire.

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

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