

APPENDIX 1

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.
 - 1.6.4. An exemption may be granted to the minimum specifications above in special circumstances if agreed by the Licensing Department. (An example where this may be appropriate is where MPVs or Minibuses have M2 seats fitted or on speciality vehicles.)

- 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.
- 1.14. Have a parcel shelf or similar fitted, where the vehicle design allows for.

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, in accordance with European Directive 76/115 EEC (as amended).

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, which have sufficient tint to obscure the inside of the vehicle from being viewed from the outside will not be permitted without the prior approval of the Licensing authority. Those Hackney Carriage proprietors, whose vehicles have such tinted windows on 1 February 2014, may remain licensed until the vehicle is replaced. 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 test sheet 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.

8. LPG Vehicles

- 8.1. A Private Hire 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:
 - 8.1.1. That a certificate of compliance is produced to state that the LPG installation was undertaken by a Petroleum Gas Association (LPGA) approved installer.
 - 8.1.2. 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.
 - 8.1.3. If 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.
 - 8.1.4. The proprietor of the vehicle must notify DVLA Swansea, of the change in fuel from petrol to both LPG and petrol.
 - 8.1.5. The vehicle is serviced by a person competent in LPG powered vehicles.

Private hire vehicle licence

Conditions of licence

1. Pre Licensing Standards

- 1.1. Satisfy the Private Hire Vehicle Licence Pre Licensing Standards adopted by Thurrock Council at all times.

2. Safety Equipment

- 2.1. An efficient and serviceable fire extinguisher marked with the plate number of the vehicle shall be carried at all times. Wheelchair accessible vehicles must carry a fire extinguisher which is at least a 1 litre AFFF extinguisher with a minimum of an 8A to 21B rating. Where a minibus fitted with a passenger lift to meet the construction and use regulations, a second extinguisher must be fitted near the back doors of the same type.
NB: In the event of a vehicle fire, the priority is to GET THE PASSENGERS OUT.
- 2.2. Each vehicle shall carry a first aid kit for the use of the driver and shall contain those items laid down by the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981.
- 2.3. The proprietor shall have available in the vehicle sufficient high visibility jackets for the seating capacity of the vehicle, and an emergency triangle to use in the event of a breakdown or accident.

3. Interior Markings

- 3.1. The proprietor shall ensure that the following are clearly displayed inside the vehicle:
 - 3.1.1. The vehicle window card licence.
 - 3.1.2. "No Smoking" signs shall be displayed on both rear passenger door windows.

4. Exterior Signs

- 4.1. The proprietor shall ensure that:
 - 4.1.1. The licence plate issued by Thurrock Council identifying the vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle shall be displayed in a vertical position and firmly fixed to the outside of the vehicle at the rear using the fixing bracket supplied. Velcro, cable tie and magnetic fastenings are not permitted. In any case of doubt about a proper method of fixing the plate, the Licensing Department should be consulted.

- 4.1.2. The Private Hire plate shall not be concealed from public view or defaced in any way.
- 4.1.3. The licence plate shall remain the property of Thurrock Council at all times and must be returned immediately if the vehicle ceases to be a licensed Private Hire vehicle, any detail of the vehicle is changed or if the vehicle licence is suspended or revoked by the Council.
- 4.1.4. Door stickers provided by Thurrock Council shall be permanently displayed on each rear door of the vehicle on the upper panel of the door. Magnetic door signs are not permitted. Any variance to the location of the stickers should be agreed with the Licensing Department.
- 4.1.5. The door stickers shall not be concealed from public view or defaced or altered in any way.

5. Trailers and Roof Boxes

- 5.1. A proprietor of a licensed Private Hire vehicle will be permitted to tow a trailer provided that:
 - 5.1.1. The trailer complies with all legal requirements (please see appendix for further guidance).
 - 5.1.2. The driver of the vehicle holds the appropriate category on his/her DVLA driving licence, which must be produced to the Council.
- 5.2. A proprietor of a licensed Private Hire vehicle will not be permitted to carry any form of roof box or luggage on the roof of the vehicle.

6. CCTV

- 6.1. A proprietor of a licensed Private Hire vehicle will be permitted to install CCTV provided that:
 - 6.1.1. The CCTV complies with all legal requirements (please see appendix for further guidance).

7. Advertising

- 7.1. A proprietor of a Private Hire vehicle shall ensure that the display of advertising materials is restricted to the following:
 - 7.1.1. Advertising, including product advertising or the trade name, address and telephone number of the circuit may be displayed anywhere on the exterior of the vehicle apart from the rear doors, which show the Thurrock Council stickers and the windows / glazing of the vehicle.

- 7.1.2. Product advertising is subject to the Council giving authority and retaining the right to request the removal of any particular advertisement that is felt to be unsuitable.
- 7.1.3. All product advertising must be professionally applied and no reflective materials may be used.
- 7.1.4. Wheelchair accessible vehicles may display the disability symbol of a maximum of 10" (245mm) square on the wheelchair access door(s) only.
- 7.1.5. Internal advertising is permitted subject to approval by the Council.
- 7.1.6. All advertising must be approved by the Council. The written approval of Thurrock Council shall be obtained as to the content and layout of any advertisement before it is fitted or displayed.

8. Vehicle Inspections

- 8.1. The proprietor 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:
 - 8.1.1. Upon initial application (regardless of the age of the vehicle)
 - 8.1.2. Annually in respect of vehicles up to 5 years old.
 - 8.1.3. Six monthly in respect of vehicles over 5 years old and up to 8 years old.
 - 8.1.4. Four monthly in respect of vehicles over 8 years old
- 8.2. Vehicles submitted for inspection shall be in such a condition as to be suitable for inspection: free from oil or any other matter and thoroughly cleaned inside and out. Vehicles not meeting these conditions will not be inspected. These vehicles will be treated as having failed to attend the inspection and be suspended immediately until they pass a re-inspection.
- 8.3. The proprietor should submit the vehicle to the Council after any repair made necessary by an accident affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or comfort or convenience of passengers.
- 8.4. Proprietors of vehicles which fail to attend any notified inspection, or whose vehicles are refused an inspection due to the condition of the vehicle shall be liable to pay a fee for a re-inspection.
- 8.5. Proprietors of vehicles, which fail to attend for an inspection, during the life of the vehicle licence, may be suspended immediately until such time as they attend and pass an inspection.

9. General Conditions

- 9.1. Vehicles must be kept clean, tidy, free from damage, well maintained and in every way fit for public service both inside and out.
- 9.2. Vehicles without alloy wheels should be fitted with all 4 matching hubcaps.
- 9.3. During the period of the licence the proprietor shall be in direct control of the day-to-day running of the vehicle.
- 9.4. The vehicle shall not be used to convey a greater number of passengers than shown on the plate and licence, irrespective of the age of the passenger.
- 9.5. No passenger under the age of 16 shall be permitted to use any side facing seat at any time.
- 9.6. On vehicles with side facing seats, notices must be displayed inside the vehicle in a prominent position advising that persons under the age of 16 must not be seated in a side facing seat.
- 9.7. Whilst a vehicle is licensed as a Private Hire vehicle and at all times, shall not be driven by any person other than a driver properly licensed by Thurrock Council.
- 9.8. If the proprietor permits or employs another person to drive the vehicle, that person must be licensed by Thurrock Council. The proprietor must have a copy of his/her Hackney Carriage / Private Hire driver's licence before he/she commences to drive the vehicle. The proprietor will record the details of the licence in a register for that purpose. The copy of the licence will be retained until such a time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle. It is the responsibility of the driver to notify the proprietor of the vehicle if he/she ceases to be permitted to drive.
- 9.9. A Private Hire proprietor who makes provisions for the acceptance of bookings for a Private Hire vehicle, by advertising a private telephone number and/or mobile number and accepts pre-booked fares, whether or not on a Private Hire circuit, requires a Private Hire Operators Licence. This does not preclude a proprietor carrying the business cards of a properly licensed operator for whom he/she is working.

10. Taximeter

- 10.1. Where a Private Hire vehicle is fitted with a taximeter:
 - 10.1.1. The operation of the taximeter shall accord with any Pre Licensing Standards and Conditions made by the Council.
 - 10.1.2. 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 the Private Hire Operator. The taximeter shall be calibrated to only allow the use

of the aforementioned tariff for the calculation of fares and no others.

NB: Nothing in this condition prevents a driver from charging the customer less than the metered fare.

10.1.3. The taximeter shall be maintained at all times so that the fare displayed can readily be seen by the passenger(s). There shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in figures, clearly legible and free from ambiguity a fare not exceeding the scale of fares prescribed by the Private Hire Operator.

10.1.4. The taximeter and all the fittings shall be so affixed to the vehicle with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seal or other appliance.

11. Animals and the Carriage of Assistance Dogs

11.1. The proprietor shall not allow any driver to convey in a licensed vehicle any animal belonging to or in the custody of himself of the proprietor or operator of the vehicle.

11.2. Any animal belonging or in the custody of a passenger may be conveyed at the driver's discretion, however it shall only be conveyed in the rear of the vehicle.

11.3. The proprietor shall ensure the driver of the vehicle complies with the requirement to carry guide dogs, Hearing dogs, other assistant dogs, dogs for the disabled, support dogs and canine partners for independence.

11.4. A driver of a licensed vehicle is required to carry the following assistant dogs free of charge, unless the driver has a proven medical condition that would preclude such actions:

11.4.1. Guide dogs for the blind

11.4.2. Hearing dogs

11.4.3. Dogs for the disabled

11.4.4. Support dogs (e.g. epilepsy)

11.5. All assistant dogs can be identified usually by their harness or identification coat. The dog owner should carry an identification card, in the case of those registered as blind, this will include a passport sized photograph and in addition they may also hold an Institute of Environmental Health card confirming no hygiene risk to vehicles or premises.

11.6. All assistance dogs should travel at their owner's feet in the front of the vehicle where possible, unless the driver has a dog phobia or religious

belief, then the dog may travel in the rear of the vehicle with the passenger, but only with consent of the passenger.

12. Documentation

- 12.1. A proprietor shall at all times hold a current certificate or cover note of motor insurance and vehicle MOT certificate and ensure copies of the original documents are supplied to the Licensing Department upon first licence and at the time of renewal of the licence and at any other time as may be required. Certificates must run concurrent, without any breaks in date or time and new or replacement copy documentation must be submitted to the Council within 7 days of the expiry of the preceding certificate / cover note.
 - 12.1.1. Failure to provide copies of a valid insurance certificate or cover note and or MOT test certificate will lead to immediate suspension for a minimum of 24 hours or until the production of the required documents is made in person to a Licensing Officer, at which time the suspension will be immediately lifted.
- 12.2. A proprietor shall produce vehicle registration documents and any other evidence of proprietorship of the vehicle to the Council at the request of the Licensing Department, within a reasonable period of time or a maximum of 7 days from such a request.
- 12.3. The Council must be notified in writing or by electronic means within 7 days of any change of address. Official documents such as vehicle registration document, insurance certificate and driving licence must be presented to the Licensing Department as soon as reasonably practicable, showing proof of change of address.

13. Accidents / Vehicle Damage / Theft

- 13.1. The proprietor of any Private Hire vehicle shall report to the Licensing Department as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case, within one working day of the occurrence, thereof any accident causing damage to the said vehicle.
- 13.2. The proprietor shall report to the Licensing Department in writing, by telephone or by electronic means any vehicle body damage i.e. vandalism. Notification must be reported within 72 hours of such damage.
- 13.3. The proprietor shall report to the Licensing Department in writing, by telephone or by electronic means any theft of vehicle or licence plate. Notification must be reported as soon as practicable and within 72 hours of such theft.

14. Regulations

- 14.1. The proprietor shall ensure that any driver complies with the Council's Pre Licensing Standards and Conditions of Licence.

- 14.2. The proprietor should make themselves familiar with statutory requirements in relation to Private Hire Vehicle Licensing. These are available at a public library or via the internet.

15. Surrender of Licence

- 15.1. If the proprietor ceases to use the vehicle for the purpose for which it is licensed they shall surrender the licence and return the licence plate, which remains the property of Thurrock Council.
- 15.2. Thurrock Council may, at any time during the period of the licence, revoke the licence should a breach be detected of any terms and conditions of the licence.

16. Appeals

- 16.1. Statutory rights for appeal against the decisions made by the Licensing Authority in respect of the grant or renewal of a Private Hire vehicle licence are to be found in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:
 - 16.1.1. Appeal against conditions imposed on a Private Hire Proprietor's licence (to the Magistrates Court); and
 - 16.1.2. Appeal against refusal to grant a Private Hire Proprietor's licence (to the Crown Court)