

Cheshire East Borough Council ('the Council')

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions (applicable in all of the hackney carriage zones within Cheshire East)

TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847; LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

1. Type of vehicle

- 1.1 The vehicle itself or the generic vehicle manufactured by the vehicle manufacturer shall be certified as having one of the following levels of Type Approval;

EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval
UK Low Volume Type Approval
UK Single Vehicle Approval.

- 1.2 The vehicle shall not exceed 3.5 tonnes (3500 kilograms) gross weight.

- 1.3 All vehicles presented for a new hackney carriage vehicle licence shall be purpose-built wheelchair accessible vehicles.

- 1.4 The vehicle shall be a manufacturer's right hand drive model with a minimum of four wheels and a minimum of four passenger seats and shall be finished in a production colour of the manufacturer for the model.

- 1.5 The vehicle shall have a minimum of four doors of which either:
(a) in circumstances where the rear door of the vehicle is not a 'split door,' two doors shall be on the near side and two on the offside or
(b) in circumstances where the rear door of the vehicle is a 'split door' at least three doors shall be fitted to the side of the vehicle.

All of the doors must be capable of use by persons for both access and egress and of being opened from both the inside and outside. If the vehicle is fitted with an electronic locking system it must be capable of being overridden to enable the doors to be opened manually.

- 1.6 The passenger seats shall be a minimum of 406mm (16") in width with no significant intrusion by wheel arches, armrests or other parts of the vehicle.

- 1.7 The vehicle shall be fitted throughout with three point lap and diagonal seat belts; for the avoidance of doubt, lap only type seat belts shall be deemed not to comply with this condition.

- 1.8 The seats shall be permanently fixed in the configuration approved by

the Council at the time the vehicle is first licensed.

2. Condition and Maintenance of the Vehicle

2.1 The vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall be maintained in a safe, efficient and clean condition and be capable of satisfying the Council's mechanical inspection at all times that the licence is in force. All relevant statutory requirements including those contained in the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations shall be fully complied with at all times.

2.2 Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the exterior of the vehicle shall be clean, free from unrepaired damage and finished to match existing paintwork after repair.

The vehicle shall be deemed incapable of satisfying the Council's mechanical inspection if it requires welding repair to the bodywork, floor panels or door cills.

2.3 The interior of the vehicle shall be clean, tidy and free of litter, any rubbish shall be removed after each journey and the upholstery, carpets and fittings free from rips and tears.

2.4 No material alteration or change to the mechanical or structural specification of the vehicle or its design, condition or appearance shall be made at any time that the licence is in force without the written consent of the Council.

2.5 The vehicle shall not be fitted with a tow bar.

2.6 Any roof rack or roof pod should be attached securely and fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

2.7 All glazing shall comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended).

3. Wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs)

All WAVs

3.1 A vehicle which is constructed or adapted to carry one or more wheelchair bound passengers shall comply with the following conditions.

3.2 The wheelchair bound passenger(s) shall not be carried facing sideways.

3.3 The wheelchair space shall be not less than:

- i. 1300mm measured in the longitudinal plane of the vehicle;

- ii. 750mm measured in the transverse plane of the vehicle;
 - iii. 1500mm measured vertically from any point in the wheelchair space.
- 3.4 The wheelchair space shall be fitted with a wheelchair tie down system and a three point lap and diagonal wheelchair user restraint system suitable for a wheelchair user situated centrally in the transverse plane of the wheelchair space.
- 3.5 The vehicle shall be equipped with either a ramp (fixed to the vehicle or portable) or a boarding lift or platform.
- 3.6 The incline of the ramp, where provided, shall not be greater than 16 degrees (1 in 3½).
- 3.7 The boarding lift or platform, where fitted, shall be capable of being manually operated.
- 3.8 The ramp or boarding lift or platform shall not impede either the use of or access and egress to any door or emergency exit.

Forward facing wheelchairs

- 3.9 The wheelchair space shall allow the carriage of a wheelchair and a wheelchair user facing the front of the vehicle.

Rear facing wheelchairs

- 3.10 The wheelchair space shall allow the carriage of a wheelchair and a wheelchair user facing the rear of the vehicle.
- 3.11 The wheelchair space shall be fitted with a head and back restraint at the forward end (relative to the vehicle) of the space.

4. Vehicle testing

- 4.1 All vehicles shall be tested by the Council or its agent prior to first licensing and thereafter annually prior to the renewal of the licence.
- 4.2 Vehicles which are over seven years old shall be tested every six months. The age of the vehicle shall be calculated by reference to the date of first registration recorded in the Vehicle Registration Document (form V5) unless the vehicle was not new at the date of first registration in the UK.

5. Vehicles converted to run on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

- 5.1 A certificate of compliance of conversion issued by a Liquid Petroleum Gas Association (LPGA) approved installer must be produced to the Council in respect of a vehicle converted to run on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The Council must be notified immediately and the certificate produced if the conversion is undertaken whilst the licence is in force.
- 5.2 The spare wheel shall be securely fixed in a suitable position where it does not obstruct the whole of the luggage space on a vehicle fitted with a 'doughnut' tank in the spare wheel well.
- 5.3 The vehicle shall display a warning sticker on the front and rear screens stating that the vehicle is fitted with a LPG tank for the purpose of alerting the emergency services in the event of an accident.

6. Safety Equipment

- 6.1 The vehicle shall be equipped at all times with a fire extinguisher manufactured to BS EN 3 and containing a minimum weight of 1.0 kilogram of dry powder or foam. The extinguisher shall be carried in such a position as to enable it to be readily available for use in an emergency. It shall be marked with the date of its last test and have the hackney carriage licence plate number painted upon it.
- 6.2 The vehicle shall be equipped at all times with a first aid kit kept in a properly designated first aid container. The container shall have the plate number of the vehicle marked up on it. The first aid kit shall contain as a minimum the following items which should be within the manufacturer's expiry date:
a guidance leaflet, 10 x non-alcoholic wipes, 1 x conforming bandage (7.5cm x 4.5m stretched), 2 x non woven triangular bandages (size 96 x 96), 2 x eye pad dressings, 3 x large dressings (size 18 x 18) 12 x safety pins, 1 x pair blunt stainless steel scissors and 30 x plasters (assorted sizes).
- 6.3 The vehicle shall be equipped at all times with a reflective warning triangle.
- 6.4 The vehicle shall be equipped at all times with a high visibility vest for use by the driver in an emergency.

7. Plates and identification of vehicle

- 7.1 The vehicle shall at all times clearly display on the exterior surface of the vehicle two licence plates supplied by the Council, the form and content of which shall also be prescribed by the Council.
- 7.2 One licence plate shall be affixed securely to the front of the vehicle