

COMMENTS

Take into consideration any disabilities a taxi driver may have whilst allowing them to still be in full time employment

When in other European countries taxis are more presentable in forms of uniform which looks professional, they also operate with a more pleasant manner..

Three year intervals and annually after age 65 is entirely appropriate. Taxi drivers have a public responsibility to look after their fee paying passengers - and must not put them at risk. In the event of taxi drivers having a diagnosed heart problem, the test interval should be one year.

A brief medical questionnaire could be completed which could highlight any medical conditions that have arisen since the previous renewal.

This should include sight tests and identify any signs of alcoholism and/or illicit drug use that may be affecting health and, therefore, ability to safely drive.

I have been in taxi's where the drivers don't look fit to drive, either through lack of sleep or possibly drugs. I think drug testing should be part of the routine check.

Based on my £120 initial medical exam. It's pointless, as I do not feel it was done to ANY standardized examination and as such there will be a wide variance in the thoroughness of each driver's medical exam. Until this issue is addressed, more frequent testing is just a paper policy exercise designed to cover the asses of those in our town halls rather than make any real difference to passenger safety. John Doe
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This is due to cost as a main reason

AS THE GOVERNMENT ARE MOVING THE RETIREMENT AGE TO 70 BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE LIVING LONGER AND ARE HEALTHIER IN GENERAL SHOULDNT THE COUNCIL FOLLOW SUITE AND REMEMBER THESE MEDICALS COST DRIVERS MONEY AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING FINANCLY

This system seems to have worked fine to date, in current climate it would seem unfair to put additional costs upon drivers, who appear to be squeezed from all sides financially.

As this employment involves the stress of driving every day and also the responsibility of other people's lives it is important that the drivers are medically fit and the only way to ensure this is to check them medically annually.

Medical checks for Taxi drivers should follow the DVLA Group 2 Medical Standards, as currently applied to Bus & Lorry drivers and recommended as best practice in 'Fitness to Drive: A guide for Health Professionals' as published by the Department of Transport in 2006 and recommended. I am dismayed (but not surprised) that Wirral Council isn't already applying these standards to the borough's taxi drivers, as other Local Authorities e.g. Cornwall, have been doing this for a while.....

Medicals should also be undertaken after an accident or drivers illness. Taxis both Hackneys and Private hire should be subject to inspection by the traffic commissioners as they form part of the public transport sector. Any transgression should result in a total ban from taxi operation.

DVLA requirement seems logical and straightforward! Why reinvent the wheel, if it's good enough for other categories why not cabbies???

There should be weekly checks

In addition to a medical check on initial application and thereafter every three years, I would consider it appropriate for an annual medical check to be required for any driver (age under 65) where a medical condition is diagnosed which has the potential to cause a risk to the safety of the driver and passenger(s).

also a much stricter dress code

I also feel the standard of taxi driver's driving should be reviewed as a number of taxi's drive so dangerously and to a level that would fail a standard driving test.

Taxi drivers should pay the full cost of medicals

Annual re-licensing and testing of professional drivers desperately needed. Some standards of driving shown in the local area by so-called professional drivers is utterly disgraceful!!!

Passenger carrying Vehicle drivers (PCV) renew their licence every five years which includes a thorough medical, taxi drivers should do the same. If a problem is found, then the driver can be suspended or monitored as required. This is long overdue and I say that as an ex. taxi driver and PCV driver.

There is a lot of taxi drivers who are medically (Physically/mentally) unfit to drive taxis. One driver I had was falling asleep at the wheel because he had a sleep disorder. He should not be allowed to drive. Many drivers are unfit to drive the public. If they were bus drivers half of them would not pass the medicals. Needs to be a yearly medical.

If monitored correctly this will ease the admin process as all three checks can be conducted at the same time (Medical, DBS and badge renewal)

Could you please advise who will be paying the costs for medical checks ? eg council of Taxi drivers?

I have recently been advised by a taxi-driver friend that a medical can cost them around £70-80 and that if this wasn't the case they would be more than happy get one annually. I don't think we should expect taxi-drivers to pay for an annual medical - maybe they should be encouraged to book an annual health check with their GP in the first instance.

I have been a private hire driver since 1994 and feel that it would be very beneficial to me and other drivers to have regular medicals, mainly because we can spend a large part of a working day not doing anything phy

Totally agree safety is paramount for drivers and customers

I am currently a p.h driver and think more health checks are necessary. However it would be very helpful if the licensing dept could arrange specific medics at a reasonable cost.

The current medical requirements are fine, I don't see the point in trying to bring in the requirement in line with LGV/PSV drivers. Medicals are over expensive enough.

If any person that drives suffers from any illness at all that would affect his or her driving the DVLA are informed and that person wouldn't be allowed to drive anyway.

I think that checks from the age of 65 are OK.

We have to pay for medicals. If I could find another job I would pack in the cabs, it's getting harder and harder by the day to make ends meet.

It feels that each year there is even more added expense to be a taxi driver. There is no control over how many plates you put out on private hire, and medicals will be another thing to cut into the small profit we make.

I would like to keep things as present and do not agree with checks. I even think they may be illegal.

Personally I think medicals should be taken from 50 and every year from then.

I think that checks from the age of 65 are fine.

Why change a perfect system as currently in place. Would only put a financial burden on drivers and also more work for already overworked doctors.

Who will pick up the bill for doctor to fill out the forms as we pay out far too much as it is now.

The current system seems to be working fine. We don't need more red tape. Thanks.

Everything should be on a 3 year cycle. Badge Medical DBS. Except plate.

I would suggest looking at seriously overweight taxi drivers (20 stones plus) as being at risk of heart problems etc. When renewing badge perhaps a diet sheet could also be given, as a guide to healthy eating.

Drivers should be randomly drug tested and breathalized on a yearly basis.

May be have nominated medical centres (like MOTs for cars) To help keep the cost down and stop over pricing from certain doctors!

Drug testing on the road and at the base monthly is needed and if possible at home or at the town hall without prior warning. Anyone not tested badge and plate suspended straight away.

Medical checks should be the same as those for LGV and PCV drivers for public safety reasons and driver safety.

There should be a cap on the amount of taxi drivers being taken on by the likes of money mercenary Satellite. It is a soul destroying state of affairs at the moment. Dreadful!!!!!!!

To keep in line with DVLA so we are all along the same requirements.

With amount of private hire cars now it is hard enough to make money with out having to pay for a medical yearly on renewal.

But who pays for it?

Drug screening?

Being a Hackney carriage driver myself I see many taxi drivers every day. I am aware that men are commonly known for avoiding the doctor and as a result can develop illnesses undetected. A health check could help keep a healthier lifestyle and encourage relationships with the doctor removing some of the anxiety.

You will not get a yes vote to any of the questions because it will cost the taxi driver money more than they pay now

Why is driving a taxi different than driving as a general member of the public. I believe age 65 then every 3 years thereafter.