



HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE

CRITERIA

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Criteria

In this document the “Licensing Authority” means Wirral Council, its Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee, its Licensing Panel and its Officers.

Although the criteria set out in this document may have been met, approval for the issuing of a licence may be withheld if the Licensing Authority is of the opinion that the vehicle is unsuitable for public use.

Although the Licensing Authority may extend its approval of any particular type of hackney carriage vehicle to all other hackney carriage vehicles conforming to the design of that type the Licensing Authority may withdraw such general approval if, in their opinion, any unsuitable features arise.

The criteria set out in this document are made under Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

MOTs and compliance test pass certificates will only be accepted up to 28 days from the date of the test.

A vehicle licensed as a private hire or hackney carriage vehicle with any other local authority will not be licensed by Wirral Council.

VEHICLE AGE POLICY

1. Every vehicle presented for licensing for the first time must be three years old or less from the date of first registration or date of manufacture (whichever is the earlier).
2. In circumstances when a Hackney Carriage Vehicle proprietor wishes to change a Hackney Carriage Vehicle that is currently licensed to a different vehicle, the replacement vehicle must be the same age or less than the vehicle that is currently licensed, up to a maximum of ten years old. Vehicles that are ten years old or more must be replaced by a vehicle that is no more than ten years old
3. Once a vehicle reaches 10 years of age it will be required to be tested every six months and a six monthly licence will be issued.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

4. All vehicles must be purpose built and built to accommodate disabled passengers in wheelchairs in the rear passenger compartment.
5. All vehicles must comply in all respects with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle (Type Approval) Regulations 1980 and the Motor Vehicle (Type Approval) Regulations (Great Britain) 1984. Every new vehicle offered for approval must comply in all respects with the British and European vehicle regulations and be M1 type approved in accordance with European Whole Vehicle Type Approval 70/156/EEC as amended. Those vehicles which do not hold M1 type approval must be presented with approved certification that the specific vehicle meets the requirements of M1 category.
6. All vehicles must have separate driver and rear passenger compartments, separated by a transparent partition in accordance with the manufacturer or vehicle converter’s original specification.
7. Vehicles presented for approval must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and any subsequent amendment or re-enactment thereof.

8. The steering wheel must be on the offside of the vehicle.
9. Unless approved by the Licensing Authority no fittings outside of the manufacturer's or vehicle converter's specification may be attached to or be carried upon the inside or outside of the vehicle.
10. Any vehicle that has been the subject of significant damage rectification repairs will not be licensed unless such repairs have been carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's or vehicle converter's specification.

BODYWORK

11. The vehicle must be free from corrosion, damage, or unsatisfactory repairs.
12. Paintwork must be of a high standard and the colour and finish of all panels must match exactly.

WHEELS AND TYRES

13. Where a hackney carriage vehicle is supplied with alloy wheels, all four road wheels must be of the same type and pattern.
14. Where a hackney carriage vehicle is supplied with wheels intended to be fitted with wheel trims, all four road wheels must be fitted with wheel trims of the same pattern.
15. Alloy wheels, wheel rims, and fitted wheel trims must be free from damage and defects which affect the safety, appearance, or integrity of the wheel.
16. Part-worn and remould tyres must comply with the Motor Vehicle Tyres (Safety) Regulations 1994.
17. All tyres, including the spare where applicable, must be the correct size, speed, and load rating for the vehicle as per the manufacturer's specification, and be compatible with the taximeter.
18. All tyres, including the spare where applicable, must be properly inflated in accordance with both the vehicle and tyre manufacturer's specifications.
19. All tyres must have a continuous tread depth of at least 1.6mm across the central three quarters of the breadth of the tyre, and visible tread across the remaining breadth of the tyre.
20. All tyres, including the spare, where applicable, must be free from cuts and other defects.
21. The hackney carriage vehicle must carry a method for dealing with a tyre should it become defective. This method must be in accordance with the manufacturer's specification which may be one of the following:
 - full size spare wheel - which must be the same size and type as the four road wheels and be fitted with a tyre of the same size, speed, and load rating as the four road wheels. Proper tools and equipment for changing the wheel must also be carried.
 - space saver spare wheel - which must be the correct size and type for the vehicle and be fitted with a tyre of the correct size, speed, and load rating. The tyre must be correctly inflated in

accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Proper tools and equipment for changing the wheel must also be carried.

- run-flat tyres - which must be fitted to all four road wheels. Run-flat tyres may only be used if the vehicle is fitted with an appropriate and serviceable tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS).
- emergency tyre sealant and compressor/inflator pack – which must be permanently marked with the vehicle registration number.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

22. Any additional electrical installation to the original vehicle equipment must be adequately insulated and be protected by suitable fuses. Any electrical installation and components within the taxi must meet the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirements of UNECE Regulation 10 and be marked accordingly.

FUEL SYSTEMS

23. A device must be provided whereby the supply of fuel to the engine may be immediately cut off.
24. A manually operated device must have its location together with the means of operation and 'off' position clearly marked on the outside of the vehicle. In the case of a vehicle fitted with an automatic inertia fuel cut off switch, no markings are required.

INTERIOR LIGHTING

25. Lighting must be provided for the driver and passengers.
26. Separate lighting controls for both passenger and driver must be provided.
27. Passenger compartment light switches and window controls must be within easy reach of all passengers
28. In the case of the passenger compartment, an illuminated control switch must be fitted in an approved position.
29. Lighting must be provided at floor level to each passenger door and be activated by the opening of the doors.

SEATS

30. Seats must be secure and covered with an appropriate material which must be properly upholstered and in good and clean condition, free from rips, tears and holes.
31. If seat covers are used they must be correctly fitted, in a good and clean condition and free from rips, tears and holes.

SEAT BELTS

32. Vehicles must be fitted with lap and diagonal seatbelts on all seats, including rear facing seats, as per the manufacturer or vehicle converter's specification.
33. Seatbelts and seatbelt mechanisms must be in good working order and free from frays, cuts, and other damage.
34. If a seatbelt sustains any frays, cuts, or other damage the seatbelt must be replaced – not repaired.

DRIVER COMPARTMENT

35. Vehicles must be provided with a means of communication between the passenger and the driver.
36. Vehicles must be fitted with an induction loop system.

PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

37. Occasional seats must automatically rise when not in use.
38. The rear seat dimensions must be adequate to carry the appropriate number of adult passengers comfortably.
39. Suitable means must be provided to assist persons to rise from the rear seat with particular attention to the needs of elderly and disabled persons.
40. Colour contrasting grab handles must be placed at door entrances to aid passenger access to and egress from the vehicle.
41. Colour contrasting sight patches are required on all passenger seats.

WHEELCHAIRS & RAMPS

42. Hackney carriage vehicles must be built to accommodate disabled passengers in wheelchairs and must be so equipped in order that disabled passengers in wheelchairs may be carried comfortably and safely.
43. Anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and occupant. Anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked.
44. Restraints must be provided for wheelchairs and occupants which must be independent of each other.
45. Anchorages must also be provided for the safe stowage of wheelchairs when not in use, whether folded or otherwise.
46. A BS 6109 compatible ramp with a safe working load (S.W.L.) of 300kg for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be available for the safe loading and unloading of passengers.
47. An adequate locking device must be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use.
48. The surface of the ramp must be covered with a non-slip material.

49. The edges of the ramp's surface must be marked in a high-contrast colour scheme.
50. Ramps which are not permanently fixed to the vehicle must be permanently marked with the vehicle registration number.

ENTRANCE STEP

51. The outer edge of the floor at each entrance must be fitted with non-slip high-visibility treads.
52. The top tread for any entrance must not exceed 38 cm above ground level when the vehicle is un-laden, except as detailed in criteria 53.
53. Where the top tread for the entrance exceeds 38 cm then an intermediate step must be provided at each entrance into the passenger compartment. The intermediate step must not extend outwards beyond the vertical line of the vehicle's wing mirrors. The step must be covered with a suitable non-slip surface with the edges of the step highlighted yellow.

WINDOWS

54. Windows must be provided at the sides and at the rear of the vehicle.
55. Passenger door windows must be capable of being easily opened by passengers when seated. The control for opening a door window must be clearly identified so as not to be mistaken for any other control.
56. The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and all other windows must let at least 70% of light through.

HEATING AND VENTILATION

57. A heating and ventilation system must be provided for the driver and passengers with independent controls for the driver and passengers and must be in good working order.

DOORS

58. Where hinged doors are fitted:
 - An automatic locking device must be fitted to passenger doors.
 - When the vehicle is stationary, the passenger doors must be capable of being opened from the inside and outside of the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism.
 - The interior door handle must be clearly visible, of a contrasting colour to the interior of the vehicle, and easily accessible to passengers when the door is in the fully open or closed position.
 - A hinged door must be capable of being opened to a minimum angle of 90 degrees.

59. Where sliding doors are fitted:

- An automatic locking device must be fitted to passenger doors.
- When the vehicle is stationary, the passenger doors must be capable of being opened from the inside and outside of the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism.
- The interior door handle must be clearly visible, of a contrasting colour to the interior of the vehicle, and easily accessible to passengers when the door is in the fully open or closed position.
- There must be reflective strips on both the front and rear edges of the door.
- There must be an illuminated sign bearing the words "Door Open" clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle. This sign must be automatically linked to the passenger doors in order that when either door handle is activated to open the door, the sign is illuminated.
- There must be a sign within the passenger compartment, clearly visible to all passengers, giving instructions on the correct operation of the passenger door.
- An audible or visual warning must be fitted in the driver's compartment indicating when any door is open.

60. Where electric doors are fitted:

- A sign must be clearly displayed inside the vehicle providing instructions on the correct operation of the door opening and closing mechanism.
- The door system design shall incorporate a method to detect an obstruction in the path of a closing door. When an obstruction is detected, the door system shall react in a manner that will allow the obstruction to be released
- A method for detecting an obstruction and preventing the closure of a powered door shall be included as part of the design of the door controls.

INTERIOR LIGHTBOX

61. A lightbox must be exhibited in a prominent position within the hackney carriage vehicle.
62. The lightbox must display the word 'CAB' in uppercase letters and the vehicle licence number below it.
63. The lightbox must be wired to the ignition so that it will remain lit at all times the vehicle ignition is turned on.

FLOOR COVERING

64. The floor of the vehicle must be covered in an appropriate non-slip material which can be easily cleaned.
65. The floor covering must not impede the movement of wheelchairs.

LUGGAGE

66. There must be provision for the safe carrying of luggage commensurate with the number of passengers being carried in the vehicle.
67. Provision must be made for luggage to be kept separate and secured from the passenger seating area.

TAXIMETER

68. A taximeter must be fitted to the vehicle, calibrated, and sealed to show the tariffs set by Wirral Council.

EXTERIOR ROOF LIGHT

69. An illuminated roof-sign displaying the word 'TAXI' must be securely fitted to the roof of the hackney carriage vehicle in such a position that it is clearly visible from the front of the vehicle by day and night.
70. The roof-sign must be connected to the taximeter so that when the vehicle is available for hire the sign is illuminated and it is not illuminated when hired.