



Hackney Carriage Vehicle Policy

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

Vehicles will not generally be accepted for hackney carriage licensing unless they comply with the following specification;

1. Any vehicle presented for licensing on the first occasion, that is not replacing an existing licensed Hackney Carriage, must be an Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) as well as meeting the specification set out in the remainder of this policy. Vehicles presented for licensing on the first occasion, which are replacing an existing licensed Hackney Carriage (that is not a ULEV), do not have to be a ULEV. Replacements for existing licensed Hackney Carriages that are a ULEV must also be a ULEV.

Note: A ULEV is a vehicle with tailpipe CO2 emissions of 75 g/km or less

Age Limit Policy

2. Vehicles presented for licensing on the first occasion shall be EURO 6 or higher standard and less than three and a half years old from the date of registration or, in respect of vehicles that have been imported other than as new into the United Kingdom, less than three and a half years old from the date of manufacture (In the remainder of this policy reference to date of first registration with regard to vehicles which are imported should be construed as date of manufacture).
3. Any licence granted shall be renewed annually until the vehicle has reached eight years provided that the vehicle remains continuously licensed in that period a vehicle will be deemed to have been continuously licensing notwithstanding a delay in renewal following expiry provided that;

- a. Any late renewal is made within 3 months of expiry and,
 - b. An additional fee levied by the Council has been paid.
4. Any vehicle first registered before 1st January 2006 will not be licensed beyond 31 March 2018.
 5. Any vehicle that does not comply with European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) will not be licensed past 31 March 2018.
 6. Any vehicle first registered between 1st January 2006 and 31st December 2010 will not be licensed after 10 years from the date of first registration. Any vehicle over 10 years of age on or before 31st March 2018 will not be licensed past 31st March 2018.
 7. Any vehicle first registered between 1st January 2011 and 31st August 2015 can be relicensed until 10 years from date of first registration.
 8. Any vehicle first registered after 1st September 2015 can be licensed until 12 years from the date of first registration.

Fire extinguisher

9. All vehicles should be equipped with a fire extinguisher of British Standard No BSEN3 of at least 1 kilogram of powder capacity and shall bear the manufacturers expiry date.

Wheelchair Accessibility

10. On the grant of any new vehicle licence the vehicle shall be capable of conveying a passenger using a wheelchair and benefit from ECWVTA (i.e. constructed as a purpose built taxi). The applicant must produce the appropriate documentation to evidence ECWVTA at time of application.
11. The vehicle should be both accessible and comfortable. In considering whether the vehicle for which a licence is sought meets this requirement the Council will

have regard to the design and quality standards recommended by the Bristol Physical Access Chain and as varied by the Licensing Manager in consultation with the committee chair from time to time.

- a. In considering whether the vehicle meets this expectation the Council will have regard to the design and quality standards attached as Appendix A.

Vehicle testing

12. All vehicles on initial application should be of such standard and condition so as to have passed the MOT and safety/cosmetic test as specified by the Council.
13. On subsequent applications vehicles should be inspected every twelve months at a place specified by the Council. This inspection will include the MOT and safety/cosmetic check as set by the Council.
14. Vehicles over the age of 8 years from the date of first registration will undergo the check every 6 months, and be issued with a 6 month licence.
15. All Vehicles should have a minimum of 4 doors and be right hand drive and be so constructed and the doors open sufficiently wide as to allow easy access and egress from the vehicle and cause no inconvenience to passengers.
16. Vehicles should be suitable for carrying passengers in safety and comfort including the provision of adequate seating space, head and knee room.

Livery

17. Vehicles to display a uniform all over livery of Bristol Blue, defined by a paint code (in this condition "Bristol Blue" means the colour identified by the British Standard code BS 381C (108) (or any European Standard code which may supercede or replace it) except on the areas where advertisements can be displayed.

Advertising

18. Any requests for advertising shall be submitted in writing with information as specified by the Licensing Manager. Requests must be approved in writing prior to display. Requests that do not comply with the council's Hackney Carriage Advertising Policy will not be approved. Advertising on the exterior of the cab may cover all or part of the complete exterior body shell and the full width and height of the rear window, except for:
- a. the boot lid (apart from vehicle manufacturers' and vehicle component suppliers' badges);
 - b. the front elevation, i.e. radiator grill and the area either side of it;
 - c. the front windscreen, side windows and any other glass areas;
 - d. the tyres and/or the rims and bumpers;

Save for any area where advertising is displayed all Exterior bodywork shall be uniformly coloured Bristol Blue.

Write off

19. Any vehicle written off may be replaced with another vehicle provided it is not older than the written off vehicle.

Temporary Vehicles

20. Any hackney carriage being licensed as a temporary replacement vehicle whilst repairs are being undertaken should comply with all aspects of the current hackney carriage specification with the exception of the requirement of being a ULEV (unless it is replacing an existing hackney carriage that is a ULEV)

21. Card Payments

1. Any hackney carriage vehicle must have a card payment facility to accept debit/credit and contactless card payments.
2. Any hackney carriage vehicle must have the card payment facility and the authorised signage installed on grant/renewal.

3. The card payment facility will be stored in a transparent plastic holder which will be affixed so that the card machine is always in prominent view of the customer.
4. The card machine must be stored in the holder at all time when the driver is available for hire.
5. All vehicles must also display the issued card facility signage that should also be affixed to the partition of the hackney carriage so that it is prominently on view of passengers.

Explanatory notes

- 1. Policy is guidance not rules and applicants may wish to try to persuade the Council to depart from the policy in their particular case. Applicants would need to prove that this could be done without undermining the purpose of this policy. In regard to Bristol Blue the purpose is one of public safety by enabling vehicles to be readily identifiable as a blue vehicle. In respect of shades which are not an exact match for the policy but which are close to it in that the naked eye would recognise it is Bristol Blue exceptions have been made and a list of main shades etc permitted as an exception may be obtained by request.**

Applicants are strongly discouraged from committing to expenditure in vehicles which do not comply with policy given adverse impact of refusal.

**Appendix A – Hackney carriage Cab Accessible Design Standards
Approved by BPAC**

Hackney Cab Accessible Design Regulations			
		Requirement – minimum unless otherwise stated	Review Status
1	Clear opening width of nearside or rear passenger door	Unobstructed width 850mm with 900mm preferred	
2	Internal door height	1300mm	
3	Internal roof to floor height	Floor – door lintel 1320mm	Must be reviewed at least biannually to achieve recommended target of 1625mm
4	External Floor (at interval level) to ground height	540mm (maximum)	Must be reviewed at least biannually to achieve recommended target of 380mm maximum
5	Grab handles: Position and number e.g. Door and post, height from floor	Above door lock at 830mm-910mm above floor level. Second handle must be on the door opposite the other grab handle e.g. attached to the bulkhead	
6	Grab handles contrasted in colour	Should be yellow or primary contrast colour	
7	Side and/or rear loading for wheelchair passengers	Can be either or both but must comply with Design Regulations	
8	Wheel chair passenger facing front or rear	Should always face to the rear of cab unless using rear loading system	
9	Wheelchair restraints fitted	Must have tested restraint system fitted	
10	Wheelchair passenger seat belt fitted and type	3 point i.e. includes lap and diagonal restraint belt	
11	Seat height from floor	380mm	Must be reviewed at least biannually to achieve recommended target of 450
12	Space for wheelchair measures – L x W	1200mm x 800mm	Must be reviewed at least biannually to achieve recommended target of 1300mm x 1340mm
13	Non slip floor surface	Rubberised or non-slip vinyl	
14	Sufficient additional luggage space	Any removal of seating must still allow for luggage storage	
15	Taxi meter visible from rear passenger seat	Display must be clearly visible facing forward	Future consideration must be given to additional display for passengers facing to the rear and to audible