



## Private Hire Vehicle Specification

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

***(Provision 1 to 1c are in force until 31 March 2018)***

1. At the date of the first application (which means the first application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence made in respect of a particular vehicle and any subsequent application in respect of the same vehicle made more than three months following expiry of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence) no more than three and a half years shall have elapsed from The Relevant Date. (The Relevant Date has the same meaning as in the Licensing Conditions). An out of time replacement application made in respect of a previously licensed vehicle within three months of expiry of the last licence will be accepted notwithstanding more than three years has elapsed from The Relevant Date PROVIDED THAT;
  - a. No licence should generally be issued so as to expire more than ten years after the Relevant Date and;
  - b. where more than eight years has elapsed from the Relevant Date when an out of time replacement application is made any Licence issued shall endure for no more than six months and;
  - c. where an out of time replacement application is received more than seven days after expiry of The Licence an additional fee may be levied by The Council;

***(From 1 April 2018 provision 2 to 3b replace provision 1 to 1c)***

2. Vehicles presented for licensing on the first occasion shall be petrol, petrol hybrid or an Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV, excluding diesel ULEV vehicles) 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).

- a. Exceptions to the requirement that vehicles will be petrol may be granted by the Licensing Manager in respect of executive vehicles.

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

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 between 31st March 2008 and 31st December 2010 will not be licensed after 10 years from the date of first registration.
5. Any vehicle first registered between 1st January 2011 and 31st August 2015 can be relicensed until 10 years from date of first registration.
6. Any vehicle first registered after 1st September 2015 can be licensed until 12 years from the date of first registration.
7. All vehicles should have a minimum of 4 doors, be right hand drive and must be so constructed so that the doors open sufficiently wide as to allow easy access and egress from the vehicle. No discomfort or inconvenience should be caused to passengers. In order to ensure this the vehicle should comply with the following dimensions:

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- a. From the top of the seat cushions to the roof at the lowest point directly above the seat cushions should be a minimum of 865mm (approximately 34 inches).
- b. The measurement between the rear of the front seats and the backrest of the rear seat should be a minimum of 750mm (approximately 30 inches).
- c. The measurement between the backrest of the front passenger seat and the dashboard fascia should be a minimum of 750mm (approximately 30 inches) when measured horizontally forward with the seat cushion.
- d. The depth of the seat from the backrest to the front edge must be a minimum of 405mm (approximately 16 inches).
- e. All passenger seats within the vehicle shall have a minimum of 405mm (approximately 16 inches) width per passenger.
- f. In the case of vehicles licensed for 5 to 8 passengers, the measurement between the rear of a front passenger seat and the backrest of the rear seat should be a minimum of 650mm (approximately 26 inches).

### **Fire Extinguisher**

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

### **Vehicle testing**

9. 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.
10. 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.

- a. 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.

### **Wheelchair Accessibility**

11. Any vehicle presented for licensing for the first occasion as a private hire vehicle with wheelchair accessibility shall only be licensed if the vehicle benefits from European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA). The applicant must produce the appropriate documentation to evidence ECWVTA at time of application.

### **Vehicle Livery**

12. No new applications for a private hire vehicle licence should be granted in respect of any vehicle carrying a livery on the blue spectrum.

### **Write offs**

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

### **Alterations**

14. Any alteration to the seating configuration or capacity of a vehicle is not permitted without prior written consent from the Council. Consent will not be given unless written confirmation from the vehicle's manufacturer is provided stating that such alterations are safe.

### **Tints**

15. Tinted glass windows are permissible to the rear side windows provided that they are only those supplied as standard by the original vehicle manufacturer and comply with current vehicle Construction and Use Regulations.
16. Tinted films applied to the vehicle windows are not permitted.

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