

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions

Introduction

New Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences issued must comply with the Council's Pre-Licensing Conditions and therefore only wheelchair accessible vehicles will be accepted for licensing.

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors must ensure that the vehicle complies with the following conditions at all times.

1. Renewal or Change of Vehicle

- 1.1. When presenting a vehicle for licensing it must be no more than six years old when first licensed, with an upper age limit of ten years, except for purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles that have an upper age limit of 12 years.
- 1.2. The vehicle must be right hand drive in good mechanical order and body condition and in full and proper operational order in every respect.
- 1.3. It must be of suitable type, size and design for use as a hackney carriage and according to the manufacturers unaltered specification has: -
 - 1.3.1. Rear accommodation for at least 3 passengers, with a minimum seat width of 41cm (16") per passenger.
 - 1.3.2. Separate front seat from the driver to accommodate a maximum of two passengers, with a minimum seat width of 41 (16") per passenger and shall: -
 - 1.3.3. Have a diagonal seat belt fitted to each front seat.
 - 1.3.4. Have a gear change area that does not encroach the passengers seating space.
 - 1.3.5. Have unobstructed legroom of at least 26" measured from the back of the front seat(s).
 - 1.3.6. No more than two doors in addition to any door provided for the driver each adjacent to and allowing direct access to an from all passenger seats.
 - 1.3.7. The front windscreen must have a visible light transmission (VLT) of not less than 75%, the front side windows must have a (VLT) of not less than 70% this is a legal requirement under the (construction and use) regulations 1986. All other windows must also have 70% (VLT). All vehicles will be checked with a tint tester before accepted for licensing. Vehicles will not be licensed with dark tinted windows or privacy glass.
 - 1.3.8. An overall height of no less than 135cm (53").
 - 1.3.9. A minimum of four doors

1.3.10 A seat belt for each passenger.

2. Fire Equipment

- 2.1. An efficient fire extinguisher shall be carried conforming to BSEN3:1996 (type AFFF, 1 litre minimum capacity). It must be readily available for use in case of emergency.

3. Interior Markings

The Proprietor shall ensure that the following are clearly displayed inside the vehicle:

- 3.1. The number of the licence.
- 3.2. The number of passengers prescribed in the licence.
- 3.3. The table of fares currently in operation.
- 3.4. Where a "FOR HIRE" flag is installed it must be situated at the bottom left side of the front windscreen, of which the illuminated area does not exceed 16 square inches.
- 3.5. Where in-car video surveillance is installed, a notice to this effect must be clearly displayed inside the vehicle, the wording of which shall be approved by Rochford District Council.

4. Exterior Signs

The Proprietor shall ensure that:

- 4.1. The plate bearing the number of the licence granted shall be displayed on the outside of the vehicle adjacent to the rear number plate.

The vehicle licence plate must be returned to the Council if the vehicle is not being used for hire and reward for whatever reason.

When replacing the vehicle or renewing the vehicle the old licence plate must be returned.
- 4.2. Rochford District Council's door stickers (official emblem) must be permanently fixed on the upper panels of the rear passenger doors.

It is the proprietor's responsibility to ensure that the door stickers are removed when the vehicle is replaced.
- 4.3. Where a "TAXI" sign is to be installed on the roof of the vehicle, it must not exceed 36" x 6¼" x 6½" and should be illuminated only when the vehicle is available for hire.

The roof signs must not be illuminated under any circumstances when out side the Rochford District.
- 4.4. Where an inscription which identifies the circuit or company of the vehicle is to be displayed, it must be positioned either:
 - 4.4.1. In the rear screen of the vehicle, and not exceed 4" high x 18" wide, and must not obscure the view to the rear, or
 - 4.4.2. On the panel of each front door, or
 - 4.4.3. On the boot lid or hatch back door.

- 4.5. Vehicles may display the flag of St George or the Union Flag at any time. It shall not exceed in size 18" x 12" and not obscure the Drivers vision.
- 4.6. No smoking signs must be displayed on each entrance to the vehicle of a minimum on 75mm in size.
- 4.7. No unnecessary stickers or advertising material is permitted.

5. Advertisements

- 5.1. Product or Service Advertisements which do not conflict with any business within the Rochford District may be placed on the outside of the front doors or on the boot lid or hatchback door or moulded rear bumper but restricted to no more than three.
- 5.2. The written approval of Rochford District Council shall be obtained as to the content and layout of any advertisement before it is fitted or displayed.

6. Inspection

The Proprietor will present the vehicle for inspection.

- 6.1. When replacing the vehicle.
- 6.2. Annually when renewing the vehicle licence for vehicles up to six years old.
- 6.3. Six monthly in respect of vehicles over six years old until the end of the vehicles licensed life.
- 6.4. When requested by an Authorised Officer.
- 6.5. After any repair made necessary by an accident affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers.

7. Taximeter

- 7.1. The vehicle shall be fitted with a taximeter visibly recording the approved passenger fare payable.
- 7.2. The position of the taximeter shall be agreed by the Council's inspecting officer and shall be maintained at all times so that the fare displayed can readily be seen by the passenger.
- 7.3. The operation of the taximeter shall accord with any byelaws made by the Council.
- 7.4. The taximeter shall be tested for accuracy when first fitted in the vehicle and following any changes to the authorised table of fares or as required. Meters will be sealed by Council staff after each inspection.

8. Usage

- 8.1. The vehicle will be available for business at all reasonable times.
- 8.2. Whilst a vehicle is licensed as a Hackney Carriage, it shall not be driven by any person other than a hackney carriage driver licensed by Rochford District Council.
- 8.3. If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle, that person must deposit a copy of his/her Hackney Carriage Drivers licence with the proprietor, before he/she commences to drive the vehicle. The proprietor

will record the details of the licence in a register for that purpose. The copy of the Hackney Carriage Drivers licence will be retained until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle.

9. Carriage of Assistance Dogs

- 9.1. The Proprietor shall ensure the Driver of the vehicle complies with the requirement to carry a Guide, Hearing or Assistance Dog when requested, unless the Driver is a holder of an Exemption Certificate.

10. Residence and Change of Address

- 10.1. A Proprietor, who changes the place at which he/she lives, or in the case of a Company, operates, shall notify the Council of such change of address within seven days of the date of the event.

11. Production of Documentation

When requested, a proprietor shall:

- 11.1. Produce a Vehicle Inspectorate MOT Test Certificate issued within the past 4 weeks at renewal of the vehicle licence, when replacing the vehicle, at the six monthly inspections for vehicles over six years old or upon request.
- 11.2. Produce within 7 days of a request, insurance documents, specifying that the vehicle has continuous insured cover for public hire.
- 11.3. Produce vehicle registration document, bill of sale, lease agreement or any other evidence of proprietorship of the vehicle, as may be required by the Council.

12. Road Accidents

- 12.1 The proprietor must notify the Hackney Carriage Officer of any road accident in which the vehicle has been involved within seventy-two hours of the occurrence.

13. Byelaws and Regulations

- 13.1. The Proprietor shall ensure that any Driver complies with the Council's Byelaws and Conditions.
- 13.2. The proprietor should make themselves familiar with statutory requirements relating to Hackney Carriage Licensing in the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847 (as amended), Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1936, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

14. Surrender of Licence

- 14.1. If the Proprietor ceases to use the vehicle for the purpose for which it is licensed they shall surrender the licence and return the plate, which remains the property of Rochford District Council.
- 14.2. The Licence may be revoked upon the breach, by the Licence Holder, of any terms and conditions of the Licence.

15. Appeals

- 15.1. An Appeal may be brought against the Licensing Conditions within 21 days from the date on which notice of the Condition is served on the applicant to the Rochford and Southend Magistrates' Court.
- 15.2. An applicant disappointed by a decision of the Authority in respect of an application also has a right of appeal initially to the Appeals and Licensing Committee and subsequently to the Magistrates Court.