

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

The proprietor of the vehicle must ensure that the vehicle complies with the following conditions at all times.

1 Pre-Licensing Conditions

Satisfy the pre-licensing conditions for Private Hire Vehicles.

2 Safety Equipment

- 2.1 An efficient fire extinguisher shall be carried of a type conforming to BSEN3:1996 (type AFFF 2 litre minimum capacity recommended). 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 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 numberplate.
- 4.2 Rochford District Council's official emblem must be permanently fixed on the panels of the rear passenger doors.
- 4.3 Where an inscription which identifies the proprietor of the vehicle is to be displayed, it shall not imply that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage and the content and layout of the inscription shall be approved by the Council.
- 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 driver's vision.

5 Advertisements

- 5.1 Product or Services 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 submit the vehicle for mechanical inspection when requested and at least:

- 6.1 On first application for a licence.
- 6.2 Annually in respect of vehicles up to six years old.
- 6.3 Six monthly in respect of vehicles over six years old and up to ten years old.
- 6.4 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

If a taximeter is fitted then:

- 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 on initial application and following any changes to the table of fares or as required. Meters to be sealed by Council staff after each inspection.
- 7.5 A table of approved charges must be displayed in a prominent position.

8 Usage

- 8.1 Whilst a vehicle is licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle, it shall not be driven by any person other than a driver properly licensed by Rochford District Council.
- 8.2 If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle, that person must deposit a copy of his/her Private Hire Vehicle 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 Private Hire Vehicle 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

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 Change of Address

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 the current Vehicle Inspectorate MOT Test Certificate following each mechanical inspection and upon request.
- 11.2 Produce within 7 days of a request, such insurance documents as may be required, specifying that the vehicle is insured for public hire.
- 11.3 Produce vehicle registration documents or any other evidence of proprietorship of the vehicle.

12 Road Accidents

The proprietor must notify *the* Hackney Carriage Officer at Rochford District Council 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 Private Hire Vehicle Licensing.

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.