

# APPENDIX E

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

### 1. Vehicle criteria

The Policy changes on vehicle emissions and the licensing of Electric and Hybrid vehicles may be subject to future review and change because of unforeseen circumstances which may affect the vehicle market.

#### Vehicle Emissions and Carbon Neutrality

1) From 01 April 2026 the Council will not accept any applications for Euro 4 or 5 standard vehicles.

Unless the vehicle is already licensed with us AND wheelchair accessible, in which case we will accept renewal applications until 31 March 2027.

2) From 01 April 2026 all new vehicle applications that are powered solely by Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) must be Euro 6 Emissions Compliant

3) From 01 April 2028 the Council will not accept new applications for vehicles which are powered solely by ICE. This will not affect the renewal of ICE vehicles already licensed by the Council. Further, it will not affect the new to licensing or renewal licensing of electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles or those using hydrogen fuel.

4) From 01 April 2029 the Council will not accept applications to renew existing ICE vehicles that are Euro 6 compliant. Unless the vehicle is already licensed with us AND wheelchair accessible, in which case we will accept renewal applications until 31 March 2031. This will not affect electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles or those using hydrogen fuel.

5) On 31 March 2035, the Council will stop the licensing of hybrid vehicles and all vehicle that do not have Zero tailpipe emissions.

6) All vehicles over the age of 10 years will be subject to Council Safety inspections every 6 months.

### 2. Grandfather Rights

Current holders of Hackney Carriage licences for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles (i.e. saloons, hatchbacks and estates) will continue to benefit from existing grandfather rights allowing them to replace their current vehicle, with another non-wheelchair accessible vehicle either during the licence period or at the expiry date of the licence. These Grandfather Rights may be transferred from one proprietor to another when a hackney carriage vehicle is transferred between those two parties. Once a hackney carriage vehicle licence expires or lapses, the Grandfather Rights will cease to have any effect.

### 3. Specifications

- a) Vehicles must seat not less than four (4) or more than eight (8) passengers (not including the driver) and:
- b) Be a Light Passenger Vehicle as defined by section 85 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and have a minimum of 4 wheels. Unless licensed at the implementation of this policy, vehicles converted from being light goods vehicles (registered under the N1 tax

classification) to being passenger carrying vehicles will not be considered suitable for licensing;

- c) To be licensed as a Hackney Carriage the vehicle must be black with an affixed four inch white stripe which runs the length of both sides of the vehicle
- d) Vehicles presented to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage that are wheelchair accessible may be purpose built 'London-type' taxis, or specifically converted from a passenger carrying vehicle with no wheelchair access to a passenger carrying vehicle that is capable of carrying a passenger in their wheelchair (typically known as an M1 conversion). Converted vehicles must provide an appropriate certificate to prove the conversion has been carried out to the required standard (European-wide type approval).
- e) Be fitted with a taximeter, calibrated to the Borough Council's approved tariff
- f) Be fitted with an illuminated roof sign
- g) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;
- h) All paintwork must be maintained in a uniform colour and free from dents, scratches or rust;
- i) Have a watertight roof or covering;
- j) Provide at least two windows on each side of the vehicle of which one window on one side must have a means of opening/closing;
- k) Rear passenger windows may be tinted but must be factory/manufacture fitted. No aftermarket tinting is permitted;
- l) Have seats that are properly cushioned and covered;
- m) Have a floor provided with a proper carpet, mat, or other suitable covering;
- n) Have fittings and furniture in a clean condition and be well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
- o) Provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage;
- p) Be fitted with an anti-lock braking system
- q) Where tilting passenger seats are fitted (**except where these are part of the manufacturer's original vehicle specification**), the seat must:-
  - be forward facing (with the exception of the fold down seats fitted onto the bulkhead/partition of a purpose built hackney carriage);
  - be designed for use by an adult;
  - have a three point seatbelt - as specified in the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended).
- r) Have a minimum of four passenger doors, which may include the rear tailgate doors if they can be opened from inside the vehicle, including an entry/exit point for the driver:
- s) Be maintained in a sound mechanical and structural condition at all times;
- t) Have a full size spare wheel or space saver design wheel and the tools to change a wheel OR an emergency puncture repair kit OR carry details of their current a contract with a mobile tyre, replacement specialist (in any event where a spare wheel or puncture repair kit has been used, it is only to permit the current fare to be completed and any defective wheel must be replaced before taking another fare to ensure passenger safety); all pneumatic tyres, including the spare, must comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specification and any relevant legislation;
- u) Be maintained in a clean and safe condition at all times from both exterior and interior perspectives.
- v) Vehicles should have no damage affecting the structural safety of the vehicle and must not have been written off for insurance purposes
- w) Minibuses and Multi-Purpose Vehicles (MPVs) must have a step fitted to assist passenger access through all rear passenger doors.
- x) Electric vehicles that are fitted with a range extension device are permitted, providing

that it is approved by the manufacturer and fitted by a suitably qualified professional.

Proprietors are encouraged to have provision for the legal transportation of a minimum of one wheelchair at all times. (When a vehicle licence is granted, the plates will be issued authorising the maximum number of passenger seats that can be used at any one time.

#### **4. Taximeters**

Taximeters must be:

- a. certified by a recognised body in accordance with the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) (2004/22/EC), in particular Annex 007;
- b. fitted with a device, the use/action of which will bring the taximeter into action and cause the word 'HIRED' to appear on the face of the taximeter and such a device must be capable of being locked in a position such that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action or switched off and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
- c. calibrated against an appropriate standard to ensure the tariff charged does not exceed the maximum fares determined by the Council;
- d. calendar and time controlled;
- e. fixed to the vehicle with appropriate seals/appliances, where possible, to prevent any person from tampering with the meter except by breaking, damaging, or permanently displacing the seals/appliances;
- f. have the word 'FARE' printed on the face of the meter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon; and

#### **5. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles**

- 5.1 Vehicles must be able to accommodate at least one wheelchair using passenger.
- 5.2 Vehicles shall have a designated space capable of accepting a reference wheelchair, of at least 1200mm by 700mm (measured front to back and side to side) with a minimum headroom of 1350mm measured from the floor of the vehicle for each passenger who uses a wheelchair. The space(s) shall be immediately adjacent to a vehicle door which is fitted with wheelchair access equipment so that the passenger using a wheelchair can board the vehicle and use the anchoring equipment with the minimum of manoeuvring.
- 5.3 Wheelchairs can be loaded from either the side or the rear of the vehicle
- 5.4 A system for the effective anchoring of wheelchairs must be provided such that they only face forwards or rearwards when the vehicle is in motion. It is best practice to secure wheelchairs in a forwarding facing position.
- 5.5 A suitable restraint must be available to the occupant of the wheelchair.
- 5.6 A ramp or ramps, or other approved lifting device must be present and available for use to enable the safe loading and unloading of any passenger using a wheelchair, and be capable of supporting a wheelchair, occupant and helper. When deployed ramps must run flush with the vehicles interior floor level.
- 5.7 Any lifting device fitted must be regularly tested in accordance with any applicable health and safety regulations (e.g. Lifting Operations and Lifting Regulations 1998) for such devices and maintained in good working order.