

# APPENDIX E

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

### 1. Vehicle Age

Upon first application all vehicles must be a purpose built hackney carriage or wheelchair accessible, or converted to conform with European type approval, and be less than 7 years old.

There is no maximum age for vehicles to be licensed. At 10 years old all vehicles will require a Council Vehicle Test prior to each renewal and at 6 monthly intervals.

### 2. Grandfather Rights

Vehicles that are wheelchair accessible or previously categorised as 'minibuses' which are licensed at the time this version of the policy is implemented may continue to be licensed until they fail the Council's mechanical vehicle test. These vehicles will be subject to a mechanical vehicle test every 6 months. The cost of the tests will be met by the vehicle owner. At each renewal test, and subsequent 6 month test will be permitted **one** retest only. Once a vehicle fails a test and retest it will cease to be suitable for licensing.

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. However those rights will cease if the vehicle is transferred to another proprietor/s.

### 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 for the first time must be wheelchair accessible. They 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) Have fitted rear passenger windows that are not heavily tinted or blacked out and will allow a minimum of 35% transmission of light (tolerance of 2%) and must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986;
  - 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 and the plates are issued, the maximum number of passenger seats that the vehicle will be licensed to carry will be the maximum number of seats, as detailed in the vehicle specification, less the number of wheelchairs that can be carried in the vehicle).

## 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.