

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

Requirements Preceding the Inspection of Vehicles and Guidelines for the Maintenance and Care of Vehicles

A Private Hire Vehicle must:-

- (a) pass an annual test by the City Council - 2 tests per year if over 5 years old
 - (b) comply with the following vehicle specification -
1. Type of Vehicle
 - (a) No vehicle shall be of such design and appearance so as to lead any person to believe the vehicle to be a hackney carriage
 - (b) No vehicle shall be licensed unless it is a standard car with a minimum of four doors
(Sports saloons, drop-head coupes, convertibles, touring cars, left hand drive cars or London type taxi-cabs will not be accepted) and
 - (c) the cubic capacity of the engine is not less than 1300 cc
 2. Age of Vehicle
 - (a) No vehicle shall be first licensed which is more than three years old
 - (b) A vehicle shall not be re-licensed which is more than eight years old
 3. Coachwork

Saloon cars shall comply with the following:-

 - (a) The width of the rear part of the body, measured six inches below the top and six inches in front of the rear back-rest, shall not be less than 4ft 4ins. This measurement to be made with both rear doors closed.
 - (b) The minimum leg room for passengers using the rear seats shall be 8.5ins, the measurement to be taken from the rear door pillar to the nearest point of the rear seat squab.
 - (c) All doors shall be capable of being opened from both the inside and outside. Two windows capable of being adjusted and secured in any open or partly open position shall be fitted.
 - (d) All glass fitted shall be safety glass, i.e. glass that if fractured does not fly into fragments capable of causing severe cuts. It shall be free of chips or cracks or any other markings which might restrict vision. Tinted glass unless supplied and fitted as standard by the manufactures will not be accepted.
 - (e) The vehicle shall not feature broken, discoloured or cracked glass, either in the windows, windscreen or other parts of the vehicle.
 - (f) No celluloid or other highly inflammable material shall be used for fittings. The roof of the car shall be and kept watertight.
 - (g) Every car shall be cellulosed (as often as necessary), and all coachwork shall be maintained in a clean condition and proper state of repair.

4. Seats

The upholstery shall be and kept clean and in good repair. Every vehicle shall be provided with a rug or mat for the inside which must be kept in a clean condition and good repair.

5. Luggage

Every vehicle shall be so constructed as to be capable of carrying a reasonable amount of luggage and adequate means for securing such luggage shall be provided.

6. Interior Markings

There shall be clearly marked and maintained inside the vehicle, in such a position as to be clearly visible at all times to persons conveyed therein the table of fares currently in operation.

7. Safety Equipment

There shall be provided and maintained in a vehicle and at all times when it is in use or available for hire a suitable and efficient fire extinguisher and a suitable first aid kit containing appropriate first aid dressings and appliances, such equipment to be carried in such a position in the vehicle as to be readily visible and available for immediate use in an emergency.

8. Advertising

There are specific advertising requirements relating to private hire cars:-

- (a) the vehicle must not be equipped with any sign or notice such as the word 'CAB' or 'TAXI';
- (b) the vehicle must display on the front doors only the words 'PRIVATE HIRE ONLY' in 2" lettering and may if so desired advertise the name and telephone number of the firm employing the vehicle in 2" lettering provided no other form of advertising is displayed and that the words 'Taxi' or 'Cab' are not featured.

taxi/privhire