

### Testing criteria for vehicles which have reached the standard age limit

The licensing department has now implemented essential testing criteria for vehicles that fail tests starting from the commencement of the extended period (from year 8 for private hire and year 12 for hackney carriages). Where a failure occurs in this period relating to one or more of the critical items as highlighted on the critical items list overleaf then the vehicle will be immediately de-licensed and will no longer be regarded as suitable for service. The type of failure is what should be considered as being major and would indicate that regular preventive maintenance has not been carried out, or if it has it has not been effective.

#### Hackney Carriage

Tests carried out between 12 and 15 years of age

#### Private Hire Vehicles

Tests carried out between 8 years and 10 years of age

The table below highlights the items that the council considers to be critical areas of a vehicle test. Therefore if a vehicle fails its vehicle test on any of the items highlighted below the vehicle will be considered no longer fit for service and will be de-licensed immediately.

Vehicles should be presented to the testing centre in a good serviceable condition, and subject to routine planned preventative maintenance in order to ensure the safety of passengers, the driver and the general public. Therefore if a vehicle fails its test for any of the items below it must be assumed that the vehicle has not been part of a regular maintenance program thus resulting in the vehicle being de-licensed.

Critical Items	
<b>Steering and suspension</b>	
Steering mechanism / system	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Transmission shafts	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Front suspension	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Rear suspension	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
<b>Brakes</b>	
Condition of service brake system	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Condition of parking brake system	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
<b>Tyres and Wheels</b>	
Tyre type and condition	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Road wheels	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle

<b>General</b>	
Exhaust emissions	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Vehicle structure	Failure will result in immediate de-licence of vehicle
Appearance - interior	Must be clean and tidy and presented in a good condition
Appearance - exterior	Must be clean and tidy and presented in a good condition
Road test	Where an issue is highlighted by the testing centre this will be determined on an individual basis depending on diagnosis