

Appendix B: Hackney carriage licensing vehicles – taken from the Hackney carriage and Private Hire Licencing Policy 2017

3. Hackney carriage licensing: Vehicles

3.1 Licence application

A hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence shall only be granted to a new vehicle, if it complies with the age limits contained in section 3.5 of this policy.

Anyone making an application for the grant or renewal of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence shall only do so using the council's specified application form.

Every application form shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- (a) Vehicle registration document (V5C) or lease document;
- (b) Certificate of insurance or cover note showing cover for public or private hire purposes (as appropriate);
- (c) Current MOT certificate issued no earlier than 28 days before the date of application;
- (d) Vehicle inspection report, issued no earlier than 28 days before the date of application;
- (e) Current licence fee.

The council has to be satisfied that all appropriate requirements have been met before it grants a licence. Consequently, the council shall not accept an application without the documents listed at (a) to (e) above. However, the council may waive the requirements in exceptional circumstances where individuals have been unable to apply on time.

'Exceptional circumstances' includes unforeseen circumstances, for example where the applicant has been unable to apply due to a significant accident or emergency situation.

'Exceptional circumstances' does not include reasonably foreseeable events, such as financial hardship.

On successful application for a licence, the proprietor(s) will be issued with a vehicle licence and licence plate.

The licence and plate shall be issued for a period of one year, subject to successful periodical retesting (see section 3.8).

The licence plate must be displayed in accordance with Appendix A, paragraph 19.

3.2 Environmental considerations

The council fully supports the use of vehicles that use cleaner environmentally friendly fuels, such as hybrid or electric vehicles.

It is considered that efforts should be made, through the licensing policy, to improve, as far as possible, the efficiency of vehicles licensed in the district by, in particular, reducing the levels of CO2 emitted.

Appendix A paragraph 17 makes it clear that LPG conversions to vehicles are perfectly acceptable.

Clearly emissions from taxis and private hire vehicles could be reduced further by encouraging better maintenance of vehicles and by switching off engines when stationary or idling, particularly at taxi ranks. This is something which is highlighted in the Code of Good Conduct, and in particular in relation to the responsibilities to residents in Appendix C, paragraph 3.0.

Drivers are reminded that it is an offence to leave the engine running on any motor vehicle that is stationary on a road, other than if it is due to an enforced stoppage of traffic.

3.3 Conditions

The licensing authority is empowered to impose such conditions, as it considers reasonably necessary in relation to the grant or renewal of a hackney carriage vehicle licence. The following represent the minimum standards, which are expected. They should be read in conjunction with conditions for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles set out in Appendix A and those specific to hackney carriage set out in Appendix K and Appendix X.

3.4 Limitation of numbers

The licensing authority has no policy to limit the number of hackney carriages, which may be licensed within South Lakeland District Council area. This does not however imply lack of regulation regarding licenced vehicles and drivers as the licensing authorities quality controls are consistently and rigorously applied to both vehicles and drivers.

3.5 Maximum age of vehicle

- 1) All vehicles, other than wheelchair accessible vehicles, must be less than 5 years old when first licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle;
- 2) No Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle, other than wheelchair accessible vehicles, will be re-licensed after reaching 10 years old;
- 3) All vehicles that are wheelchair accessible vehicles must be less than 7 years old when first licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle;
- 4) No wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle will be re-licensed after reaching 14 years old;
- 5) Any vehicle may be licensed or relicensed outside of these age limits, but any such an application must be referred to a Licensing Regulatory Sub-Committee for consideration.

3.6 Vehicle size

Vehicles can be licensed to carry up to eight passengers.

3.7 Advertising

Detailed provisions on advertising on vehicles are contained in Appendix K.

3.8 Vehicle testing

All Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles regardless of type shall be tested:

- (a) Annually for vehicles up to 3 years old
- (b) Every six months for vehicles over 3 years and under 8 years old
- (c) Every four months for vehicles over 8 years old.

The age of the vehicle shall be calculated from the date of first registration that is recorded on the vehicle registration document V5C.

The test shall be conducted not more than 28 days before the date upon which;

- (a) the first licence application is submitted, or;
- (b) the next vehicle test falls due.

The test shall be conducted at a garage that is approved by the council.

The test shall be conducted in two parts;

- (a) MOT test that is appropriate for that type of vehicle, and;
- (b) Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Inspection.

And a test certificate showing pass or fail shall be issued by the garage for each test.

It is the responsibility of the vehicle proprietor to produce both test certificates, showing they have passed the relevant test to the council;

- (a) when the licence application is submitted, or;
- (b) before the date upon which the periodical test falls due.

Failure to produce the certificates to the council shall result in the immediate suspension of the vehicle licence. Re-instatement of the licence shall only take place when the certificates have been delivered to the council and the council is satisfied that the vehicle meets the criteria to be licensed.

3.9 Livery

There are is a requirement to display the council logo on vehicles. See Appendix A section 19.