

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions

These conditions adopted by the Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S.47 are in addition to the Byelaws adopted by the Council under the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Public Health Act 1875, and should be read in conjunction with those Byelaws. Any requirement of legislation which affects the operations being carried out under these conditions and Byelaws shall be regarded as if they are conditions of the licence.

1. Vehicle Suitability

A vehicle will not be deemed suitable for licensing as a hackney carriage vehicle unless

- a). It has at least four doors.
- b). It is capable of comfortably seating at least four passengers in addition to the driver and for that purpose:-
 - the rear seat of the vehicle shall measure at least 122cm (48") at it's widest part ; and,
 - the headroom from the centre of the back seat squab to the roof lining shall measure at least 86cm (34"); and,
 - the distance from the leading edge of the back seat to the rear of the front seat shall measure a minimum of 18cm (7") horizontally with that front seat is in it's rearmost position.
- c). It has a separate compartment of adequate size for luggage.
- d). The engine capacity shall be not less than 1400cc unless specifically authorised.
- e). It is fitted with a seat belt for each passenger seat to conform with current British Standards.
- f). The steering wheel is located on the right side of the vehicle (off side).
- g). All passengers shall have direct access to a door that does not require seats to be moved to use it.
- h). There must be access to passengers from both sides of the vehicle.
- i) The vehicle shall be dark blue in colour,
- j) Bear the Hastings Borough Council coat of arms on the bonnet of a size and position to be approved by council officers
- k) Have door Handles in white

2. Maintenance of the vehicle and safety equipment

The proprietor shall ensure that:

- a). a first aid kit is no longer a mandatory requirement, but it is recommended that one is carried in the vehicle for use by trained personnel.
- b). no material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition, or appearance of the vehicle is made without the approval of the Council at any time whilst the licence is in force.

The vehicle and all it's fittings and equipment must at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire be kept in a safe, tidy and clean condition, maintained in satisfactory mechanical order, body condition and overall appearance and must comply with all relevant statutory requirements (including those contained in the Motor Vehicles

(Construction and Use) Regulations. In particular:-

the exterior of the vehicle shall:-

- be free from dents and damage to body panels and trim;
- be free of areas of rust and / or damaged paintwork;

- have all factory fitted bumpers and body mouldings in place and in good order and repair; and,

the interior of the vehicle shall:-

- be free from stains, tears, cuts and / or cigarette burns;

- have all door and window mechanisms in good working order; and, the boot or luggage space must be kept clear for use by the passengers with certain exemptions (eg spare wheel and jack).

3. Roof Signs

A hackney carriage must display a roof sign fitted laterally with a minimum base of 24" and which is capable of being illuminated and showing the word "Taxi" forward facing. The rear face may be used to display the proprietors name and/or telephone number. The illumination should automatically be extinguished when the taxi meter is engaged.

Purpose built vehicles with signs forming an integral part of the roof are exempt. Any illumination must not contravene any statutory requirement.

4. Vehicle Marking

A sign of a style approved by the council bearing the words "Licensed Hackney Carriage Hastings Borough Council" and including the licence number and licensed capacity must be displayed on each front door of the vehicle.

The trade name and telephone number of the proprietor may be displayed on the rear passenger doors of the vehicle, (a size, format and style as authorised by Hastings Borough Council) and may be displayed on the rear face of the roof sign. The trade name may also appear on the front of the roof sign in accordance with Condition 3. This information may not appear in any other position on the vehicle other than on business cards inside the vehicle. A 'No Smoking' sign or pictogram must be on display in the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

5. Vehicle Age

No vehicle shall:

- a. on first application for a licence be older than five (5) years since the time of its first registration (5 years for purpose built vehicles) ; and,
- b. on submission for renewal of a licence be more than seven (7) years old since the time of first registration (ten (10) years for purpose built vehicles);

All vehicles over five years old shall be required to pass two vehicle inspections each year.

6. Convictions

The proprietor must, within seven (7) days, disclose to the Council in writing any motoring or criminal conviction imposed on him/her (or if the proprietor is a company or partnership, on any of the directors or partners) during the period of the licence, giving particulars of the date and place of conviction, the nature of the charge and the penalty imposed together with such further information concerning the offence as the Council may require.

7. Passengers

A vehicle must not:

- (a) convey a greater number of persons than that prescribed in the licence for that vehicle regardless of age or size,
- (b) convey in a hackney carriage vehicle:
 - (i) any child below the age of fourteen years, other than in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 1988 and subsequent regulations; or,
 - (ii) more than one person of that age in any seat.
- (c) without the consent of the hirer of the vehicle convey any other person in the vehicle at the same time.

8. Change of Address

In the event of the proprietor of a hackney carriage vehicle changing his address, he/she must within 7 days give notice in writing to the Council and shall produce the vehicle licence at the offices of the Council's Licensing Section to enable it to be amended.

9. Change of Vehicle

In the event of the proprietor wishing to replace a hackney carriage vehicle he shall notify the Council of his wish and ensure that the replacement vehicle is made available for inspection by the Council before purchase.

10. Vehicle Damage

Any licensed vehicle damaged in an accident or otherwise must be presented for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council and an accident report submitted as soon as possible after such accident and in any case within 72 hours. Damaged vehicles may not continue to operate without the prior approval of the Council's authorised officer. On completion of the necessary repairs the vehicle must be presented for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council prior to being returned into service.

11. Parking

In addition to the taxi ranks described in the Byelaws certain other ranks are in operation and the location and times of operation are detailed in the relevant traffic order.

General Conditions

These conditions are in addition to the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and the Hackney Carriage Byelaws made under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Public Health Act 1875.

If you are aggrieved by any of the conditions attached to the licence you may appeal to a Magistrates Court within 21 days of the service of this licence on you. (See sections 48(7) and 77 of the 1976 Act and section 300 of the Public Health Act 1936).