

Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions

1. General

- a). It is the responsibility of the Proprietor and any driver employed or engaged by him to drive a private hire vehicle to ensure that it complies with the following conditions.
- b). Throughout these conditions "Proprietor" includes a part-proprietor and, in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hiring agreement or a hire purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle under that agreement.
- c). No vehicle shall be used unless it is covered by an Operators Licence.

2. Vehicle Suitability

A vehicle will not be deemed suitable for licensing as a private hire 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 its 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 its 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 not of the TX (London Cab) Metro Cab, Euro Cab type of construction or similar.
- h). The steering wheel is located on the right side of the vehicle (off side).
- i). All passengers shall have direct access to a door that does not require seats to be moved to use it.
- j). No vehicle may have tinted windscreens/windows
- K). The vehicle shall be white in colour with contrasting black door handles

3. Vehicle Age

No vehicle shall:

- a). on first application for a licence be older than 5 years since the time of its first registration; and,
 - b). on submission for renewal of a licence be more than 7 years old since the time of first registration;
- All vehicles over five years old shall be required to pass two vehicle inspections each year.

4. Vehicle Maintenance and Safety Equipment

The proprietor shall ensure that:

- a). the seats are properly cushioned and covered;
- b). the floor is provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable floor covering;
- c). the fittings and furnishings are kept clean and well maintained and in every way fit for public use;
- d). adequate means are provided for securing luggage;
- e). at least three doors in addition to the drivers door are provided for passengers;
- f). the roof and covering are watertight;
- g). there is on each side of the vehicle at least one window accessible to and which can be readily opened and closed by the passengers;
- h). an efficient fire extinguisher is provided and maintained in such a position as to be readily available for use.
- i). 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.
- j). 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 its 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).

5. Identification Plate

The yellow identification plate issued by the Council indicating the vehicle licence number and the number of passengers for which the vehicle is licensed shall at all times be displayed in a vertical position, fixed firmly to the outside of the vehicle close to the rear number plate.

6. Interior Marking

The yellow card issued by the Council indicating the number of the vehicle licence and the number of passengers prescribed in the licence shall be displayed in the vehicle in a position where it is visible at all times to persons conveyed therein.

7. Signs Notices etc

- a). The display of roof signs of any description or the display of the word "TAXI" or "CAB" whether in the singular or plural and whether alone or as part of another word or the words "FOR HIRE" or any form of wording which in any way suggests that the vehicle on which it is displayed is presently available to take up any passengers wishing to hire it, or would be so available if not already hired, such as strips displayed in the front or rear windscreens is not permitted.
- b). A sign of a style approved by the Council bearing the words "Licensed Private Hire Vehicle Hastings Borough Council" and including its licence number and licensed capacity shall be displayed on each front door of the vehicle. The sign shall also bear the words "This Vehicle must be pre-booked"
- c). The trade name and telephone number of the proprietor may be displayed on the rear passenger doors and in no other position on the vehicle other than business cards inside the vehicle.
- d). A notice must be prominently displayed in the vehicle at all times stating that the hire charges are not prescribed by the Council but are a matter for negotiation with the hirer. The sign must include the vehicle licence number and the number of passengers permitted to be carried.

8. Taximeter

Private Hire vehicles fitted with a "taximeter" may not operate unless the meter is in working order and has been checked and sealed by the Council's authorised officer. In the event of the seal being broken the driver shall notify the Council immediately and arrange for the meter to be retested and resealed.

A Private Hire vehicle may only use a Taximeter of a type approved by Hastings Borough Council and this shall be of the calendar type.

The Council's fare tariffs numbered one to four shall be the first four tariffs on the Taximeter and shall be numbered accordingly one to four. (Council tariffs MUST be loaded on the Taximeter)

9. 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 private hire 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.

10. Change of Address

In the event of the proprietor of a private hire vehicle changing their address, they must within seven (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.

NB If the driver is permitted or employed to drive a private hire vehicle by an operator he/she shall, before commencing to drive that vehicle, deposit his/her private hire driver's licence with that operator for retention by him/her until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive for that operator when the private hire driver's licence must be returned to the driver.

NB. Proprietors must ensure that all **drivers** are in possession of a current driver's licence issued by the DVLA – **The DVLA Licence must show the drivers current home address.**

11. Change of Vehicle

In the event of the proprietor wishing to replace a private hire vehicle they must notify the Council of their wish and ensure that the replacement vehicle is made available for inspection by the Council before the change takes place.

12. Convictions

The proprietor must, within seven (7) days, disclose to the Council in writing any motoring or criminal conviction imposed on them (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.

13. 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.

14. Deposit of Licence

If the driver is permitted or employed to drive a private hire vehicle by an operator he shall, before commencing to drive that vehicle, deposit his private hire drivers licence with that operator for retention by him until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive for that operator when the private hire drivers licence must be returned to the driver. Proprietors should ensure that all drivers are in possession of a current Driver's licence issued by the DVLC.

General Conditions

These conditions are in addition to the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. 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).