

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 (HC 001 to HC 048 and their replacements)

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 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 fitted with a seat belt for each passenger seat to conform with British Standards.
- h. The steering wheel is located on the right side of the vehicle (off side).
- j. There must be access to passengers from both sides of the vehicle.
- k. The vehicle shall be dark Blue in colour and bear the Hastings Borough Council coat of arms on the bonnet.

Vehicle Suitability (HC049 and above, new vehicles and replacements)

- a. New unregistered vehicles only.
- b. Purpose built taxi 8/7/5 seat with integral roof pod.
- c. Wheelchair accessible (side loading).
- d. Euro VI engine (Hybrid or electric also acceptable).
- e. Fitted with hearing loop.
- f. Fitted with CCTV system installed by an approved company, no access to the stored images by the driver, CCTV signs fitted to vehicle.
- g. Vehicle sprayed or wrapped in Dark Blue (Base colour code 8M4-KJD6B) with bonnet crest.

2. Vehicle Age

No vehicle shall:

- a. on first application for a licence be older than 5 years (applies to HC001 to HC048 renewals only) since the time of its first registration; or new for all other vehicles as above, and,
- b. on submission for renewal of a licence be more than 7 years old since the time of first registration (10 years for purpose built vehicles);

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

3. 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 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).

4. Identification Plate

The white 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. In addition a sign 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.

5. Roof Sign

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" facing forward. 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 an integral pod in the roof are exempt.

6. 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.

7. Change of Address

In the event of the proprietor of a hackney carriage 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.

8. Change of Vehicle

In the event of the proprietor wishing to replace a hackney carriage 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.

9. 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.

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).