

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND HACKNEY CARRIAGES (1999-EDITION (1))

*** PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE DRIVER YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PLY FOR HIRE WITHIN ANY DISTRICT OTHER THAN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE . AND AS A SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DRIVER YOU ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO DRIVE SOUTH CAMBS VEHICLES, THROUGH A REGISTERED SOUTH CAMBS OPERATOR.**

These conditions apply to both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles except where stated. The proprietor of the vehicle must ensure that the vehicle complies with the following conditions at all times and that the other requirements set out below are strictly complied with:-

1. TYPE OF VEHICLE

The vehicle must be safe, comfortable and suitable in type, size and design for use as a private hire vehicle and must be:-

- (a) Private Hire Vehicle: not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage; or
Hackney Carriage: a "London" type taxi cab finished in the manufacturer's standard colour; or
- (b) a standard saloon type or estate/hatchback type car finished in the manufacturer's standard colour with a minimum of four doors (sports saloons, drop head coupes, convertibles or touring cars will not be licensed); or
- (c) a vehicle specially adapted to carry disabled persons and approved by the Council; and
- (d) have an engine, the nominal cubic capacity of which is not less than 1300ccs; and
- (e) no more than five years old unless in an exceptionally well maintained condition; and
- (f) in a condition so as to comply at all times with all relevant statutory requirements. (Testing by the Council does not avoid the need for MOT certificates for all vehicles more than one year old. The MOT certificate must be produced on the Council's inspection and must have at least 3 months unexpired).

2. COACHWORK

Vehicles must comply with the following:-

- (a) the width of the rear part of the body, measured in 15cms below the top and 15cms in front of the rear back-rest, shall not be less than 1.28m, this measurement to be made with both rear doors closed;
- (b) the minimum leg room for passengers using the rear seats shall be 22cms, the measurement to be taken from the rear door pillar to the nearest point of the rear seat squab;
- (c) all doors shall be capable of being opened from both the inside and the outside and to an angle of at least 60 degrees. Two windows capable of being adjusted and secured in any open or partly open position shall be fitted;
- (d) all glass fitted shall be safety glass, i.e. glass that if fractured does not fly into fragments capable of causing severe cuts;

- (e) broken, discoloured or cracked glass, either in the window, windscreen or other part of the vehicle shall be replaced at once;
- (f) every vehicle shall be refinished as often as necessary and all coachwork shall be maintained in a clean condition and in proper state of repair; and
- (g) if the vehicle is an estate or hatchback type car it must be fitted with a guard rail or other device of a type approved by the Council to separate the rear loading area from the passengers.

3. GENERAL

- (a) The vehicle must be fitted with either all radial or all crossply tyres and the spare wheel and tyre must be of the same type as those fitted to the vehicle (or according to the manufacturer's specification and, if used, then the vehicle must be used according to the manufacturer's advice);
- (b) The vehicle must be fitted on both sides with external rear view mirrors;
- (c) Two way radio equipment may not be installed without the prior approval of the Council's inspecting officer who may specify the position of the equipment to ensure safe operation;
- (d) All parts of the vehicle, its fittings and equipment both internal and external must be kept in an efficient, safe and clean condition and comply at all times with all relevant statutory requirements; and
- (e) The vehicle must at all times be insured to the satisfaction of the Council for fare paying passengers.

4. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The proprietor shall provide and maintain in good order in the vehicle:-

- (a) an efficient fire extinguisher (minimum capacity 0.6 kg) carried in a position so as to be readily available for use; and
- (b) an occupational first aid kit containing assorted plasters, bandages, triangular bandage and safety pins.

5. INTERIOR MARKINGS

The proprietor shall cause to be clearly marked and maintained inside the vehicle in such a position as to be clearly visible to persons conveyed therein:

- (a) the number of the licence;
- (b) the number of passengers prescribed in the Licence;
- (c) the statement in legible letters at least 1cm high "Complaints should be referred to the proprietor in the first instance, and if necessary, then to the Licensing Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB3 6EA quoting all facts including the number of the private hire vehicle/hackney carriage licence";
- (d) the name of the proprietor; and
- (e) Hackney Carriage: the table of fares currently in operation.

6. EXTERIOR SIGNS

The proprietor shall ensure that:-

(a) Except where authorised in writing by the Licensing Officer under Section 75(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, at all times the vehicle current licence plate provided by the Council is displayed; and

(b) Private Hire Vehicle: No roof sign shall be displayed at any time.

Hackney Carriage: The vehicle is fitted with a roof sign not exceeding 500mm in length and 120mm in height and bearing the word "TAXI" illuminated in yellow on a black background and no other lettering to the front and the word "TAXI" or the proprietors' name, trading name and/or telephone number illuminated in red on a black background and no other lettering to the rear. Any alternative sign may not be displayed except with the written authority of the Licensing Officer and must in any event bear the words mentioned above and no others;

(c) Hackney Carriage: The roof sign is maintained in good order and displayed at all times on the roof of the vehicle except:-

- (i) when the vehicle is on hire for a wedding;
- (ii) when it is necessary to accommodate passengers luggage by the use of a roof rack;
- (iii) when the vehicle is being used for the proprietor or a person authorised by the proprietor for social, domestic or pleasure purposes;
- (iv) otherwise with the prior approval in writing of the Licensing Officer.

(d) Hackney Carriage: The roof sign is illuminated during the hours of darkness except when the vehicle is under hire.

(e) Private Hire Vehicle: The vehicle shall not be licensed or be deemed to be licensed at any time if no current vehicle licence plate provided by the Council is displayed on the vehicle.

(f) In certain circumstances the Council may authorise or require alternative or additional exterior signs subject to such further or substituted conditions as the Council may determine.

7. ADVERTISEMENT

Subject always to the Council's right to disallow any advertisement, no advertisement shall be displayed on the exterior of the vehicle except on advertisement panels with an area not exceeding 0.56sqm on the side doors.

8. INSPECTION

The proprietor shall submit the vehicle to the Council for inspection:-

(a) annually when the licence is due for renewal;

(b) after any repair made necessary by an accident affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers and the proprietor shall notify the Licensing Officer of any such accident within 72 hours; and

(c) at any other time if so requested by the Licensing Officer.

9. CONVICTIONS

The proprietor shall, within seven days disclose to the Licensing Officer, in writing, details of any conviction arising from Court action imposed on him or, if the proprietor is a company, on any of its directors during the period of the licence.

10. CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The proprietor shall notify the Licensing Officer in writing of any change of address during the period of licence within seven days of such a change taking place.

11. SURRENDER OF LICENCE

Except in situations to which Section 49 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 applies (transfer of vehicles with licence), if the proprietor ceases to use the vehicle for the purpose for which it is licensed he shall surrender the licence and return the plate, which remains the property of South Cambridgeshire District Council, to the Licensing Officer.

12. DEPOSIT OF DRIVERS' LICENCES

If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle he shall, before that person commences to drive the vehicle, cause that person to deliver to him his hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver's licence for retention until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of his.

13. HACKNEY CARRIAGE: TAXIMETER

- (a) The vehicle shall be fitted with a taximeter visibly recording the passenger fare payable in conformity with such table of fares as may from time to time be approved by the Council;
- (b) The position of the taximeter shall be agreed by the Council's inspecting officer and shall be maintained at all times so that fare displayed can readily be seen by the passenger; and
- (c) The operation of the taximeter shall accord with any byelaws made by the Council.

14. HACKNEY CARRIAGE: BYELAWS

The vehicle must comply with the relevant provisions of the hackney carriage byelaws or be taken out of service as a hackney carriage until such time as the vehicle complies with the byelaws.

15. DISC CONDITIONS (PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES)

The following condition applies ONLY if the Council has allowed in writing a disc to be used instead of a plate.

The Council has determined that under your Private Hire Vehicle Licence condition 6(f) (Exterior Signs) you may affix a Council approved and supplied disc to the front windscreen (instead of a plate at the rear) for all uses of the vehicle as a private hire vehicle where the driver is acting as a uniformed chauffeur under a written contract for one or more journeys. If any use of the vehicle as a private hire vehicle is made where there is no written contract or where the driver is not in uniform a plate shall be used at the rear of the vehicle. If neither plate nor disc is affixed or if there is any contravention of this provision the vehicle shall not be deemed to be licensed.

[NB: In Cambridge City certain Road Traffic Regulation advantages given to licensed vehicles in use as such may not be available unless a plate is used. You will need to observe the relevant requirements if you wish to claim those advantages.]

16. These conditions consolidate, amend and update previous vehicle licence conditions and will be effective upon renewals after 31st March 1999.

Updated 15th July 2003
JWS/TAXI