

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE

Conditions of Licence

Introduction

The Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence is granted subject to complying with the following conditions of licence.

The 'Licence Holder' is the proprietor of the vehicle.

All references to the "Council" in these conditions mean Lichfield District Council, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6YX.

General Conditions

1.0. Licence Document

- 1.1. Licences for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle will run for a maximum period of twelve months.
- 1.2. If your Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence expires you must return the vehicle licence and identification plate to the Council within 7 days.
- 1.3. The licence plate shall not be transferred to another vehicle without the consent of the Council.
- 1.4. The licence holder must notify the Council of any changes:-
 - 1.4.1 in the particulars disclosed on any application forms;
 - 1.4.2 in respect of any forms or documents submitted in order to make an application for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence.

2.0. Deposit of Driver's Licence

- 2.1. If the licence holder permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a Hackney Carriage they shall, before that person commences to drive the vehicle, ensure that the driver has a valid Combined Drivers Licence and the vehicle owner shall retain a photocopy of that Drivers Licence, until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle.

3.0. Change of Address

- 3.1. If you change your address at any time during the period of the licence, you must inform the Council in writing within 7 days.

4.0. Single Authority Licensing of Vehicle

- 4.1. This licence is issued on the condition that the hackney carriage to which it relates is not licensed as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle by another authority. If Lichfield District Council becomes aware of other vehicle licenses (hackney carriage or private hire) running concurrently with this licence, then this licence will be revoked.

5.0. Vehicle Insurance

- 5.1. The licence holder shall produce all vehicle insurance documents on demand to the Council at any time during the period of the licence.
- 5.2. The licence holder shall ensure that a full certificate or cover note of insurance is produced to the Council within 7 days of expiry, upon request or any earlier renewal.

6.0. Vehicle Road Fund Licence

- 6.1. The licence holder shall produce a current vehicle road fund licence on demand to the Council at any time during the period of the licence.

7.0. Ministry of Transport Test Certificate

- 7.1. The licence holder is required to produce on demand to an officer of the Council or a Police officer, an annual Ministry Of Transport Test Certificate after 12 months from the date of registration.

8.0. Inspection

- 8.1. The Council may require in writing for the licence holder to produce their vehicle for inspection at a Lichfield District Council designated Test Station up to three times annually at the cost of the licence holder. Inspections carried out on an unannounced basis will not be included within the above figure.

9.0. Accidents

- 9.1. Any accident or damage involving the licensed vehicle must be reported to an officer in the Environmental Health Department at the Council. This may be an oral report in the first instance but must be followed up by the completion of an Accident Report Form within 120 hours of the accident.

10.0. Alteration of Vehicles

- 10.1. No material alterations or change in specification, design, condition or appearance of the hackney carriage shall be made, at any time while the licence is in force without the prior approval of the Council.

11.0. Vehicle Type

- 11.1. The seating arrangement in 'Minibus' and 'Multi Purpose Vehicle' types will be fixed and approved by the Council. The seating will not be moved once the approval has been granted.
- 11.2. All saloon / estate type vehicles must have a minimum of 4 doors excluding rear doors/tailgate/boot.
- 11.3. Vehicles capable of carrying more than 4 passengers e.g. people carriers/minibuses and similar type, must have a minimum of 3 doors excluding the rear doors/tailgate/ boot. The third door must be located on the near side of the vehicle to ensure safe access and egress of passengers. There must be sufficient space for luggage whilst still leaving gangways clear and there shall be a suitable restraint available to secure any luggage in the passenger compartment.
- 11.4. Any vehicle that in the opinion of the Council has received any modification, other than by a recognised vehicle manufacturer, shall at the discretion of the Council undergo an additional safety test at a testing centre selected by the Council.

12.0. Comfort of Passengers

- 12.1. Seating must have adequate dimensions and leg room in the opinion of the licensing officer.

13.0. Colour

- 13.1. Hackney Carriage Vehicles should be white, or any colour which appears to be white.
- 13.2. All Public Carriage Office approved (i.e. London Taxis) are exempt from any colour restriction.

14.0. Age Limit of Vehicles

- 14.1. No Hackney Carriage Vehicles will be permitted to be more than 6 years old for saloon type vehicles and 10 years old for purpose-built taxis as defined on the vehicles V5 DVLA document, from the date of first registration (unless the vehicle is in an exceptional condition as determined by the Council).

15.0. Maintenance of Vehicle

- 15.1. The vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire, be kept in a good, clean and efficient working order.
- 15.2. The interior of the vehicle shall be kept clean and tidy at all times when in use as a Hackney Carriage vehicle. The exterior of the vehicle to be clean at all times, having due regard to the weather conditions on the day.
- 15.3. The vehicle shall also carry a suitable and sufficient method of tyre replacement or repair, which will allow the driver to complete the current journey. All methods of tyre replacement or repair must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

16.0. Advertising and Official Signs

- 16.1. All Hackney Carriage Vehicles must display Hackney Carriage Identification signs as supplied by the Council and shall ensure each is permanently affixed to both of the rear passenger doors of the vehicle aligned horizontally with the rear door handles and shall remain on display at all times.
- 16.2. These signs shall not be removed from the vehicle except with the approval of, or under the supervision of, an authorised Officer of the Council or any Police Officer.
- 16.3. No words, letters or graphics may be displayed on the glazing of the vehicle.
- 16.4. The proprietor of the Hackney Carriage may display on the side of the vehicle the trading name and contact number of the operator to whom all advance bookings for this vehicle are taken. This is restricted to a single advertisement to the front passenger and drivers doors and to be contained within a border with a maximum size of 600mm in width and 300mm in height and for the bonnet and boot of the vehicle, a single advertisement of a maximum size of 600mm in width and 150mm in height to be agreed in advance in writing.
- 16.5. The proprietor shall maintain such signs in a clean and tidy condition and shall further remove any sign which is damaged, or defaced.
- 16.6. No advertisement shall be displayed within the interior of the vehicle.
- 16.7. No other material may be displayed on the outside of the vehicle without the written authorisation of the Council.

17.0. Table of Fares and Notices

- 17.1. The licence holder shall display inside the vehicle in such a position as to be visible at all times to persons conveyed therein the following:-
 - 17.1.1 a table of fares provided by the Council
 - 17.1.2 the maximum number of persons who may be carried by the vehicle
 - 17.1.3 the licence number of the vehicle
 - 17.1.4 any other notice reasonably required by the Council.

18.0. Private Mobile Radio

18.1. Installation or the use of Citizen Band (CB) radio equipment, or scanners, within the licensed vehicle is not permitted.

19.0. Vehicle Licence Plate

19.1. The Hackney Carriage vehicle licence plate shall be attached to the backing plate supplied by the Council and positioned either above or below the rear vehicle registration number plate or as determined by an authorised officer.

19.2. The licence holder shall ensure that the Hackney Carriage plate is at all times kept maintained in such good condition that the information contained is clearly visible to the public view.

19.3. The licence plate shall remain the property of the Council and shall be returned to the Council upon the expiration, suspension or revocation of this licence, including a suspension under Section 68 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

19.4. The proprietor or driver of a licensed vehicle must surrender its Lichfield District Council licence plate to any appropriately authorised officer.

20.0 Luggage

20.1 Passengers should carry nothing in arms whilst in transit.

21.0 Wheelchair access

21.1 The licence holder may display on suitably adapted vehicles symbols or form of words indicating that the vehicle has been adapted for use by disabled persons. The Council will however require evidence of the acceptability of such adaptation and shall approve the form of words and symbols.

22.0 Safety Equipment

22.1 There shall be provided in the vehicle a suitable fire extinguisher of at least 1.0kg capacity. It shall be fitted in such a position as to be readily available for immediate use in an emergency. The fire extinguisher must conform to the appropriate British Standard and be maintained to manufacturers specifications.

23.0 Roof Signs

23.1 The hackney carriage (other than a "London" style taxi) must be fitted with a proprietary illuminated roof sign of a size of not less than 150mm in height and 600mm in width showing to the front the word TAXI in large black capital letters on a white background.

23.2 The roof sign must be connected electrically to the taximeter and should be illuminated in the hours of darkness when the vehicle is plying for hire and extinguished each and every time a fare is taken within the Licensing Authority of Lichfield District Council.

23.3 The roof sign must be kept maintained in a good clean and legible condition at all times.

24.0 Taximeters

24.1 All hackney carriages shall be fitted with a taximeter of a type approved by the Council.

24.2 The meter shall be capable of displaying the various tariffs as approved by the Council, including extra charges recoverable under the approved table of fares.

24.3 The meter shall be located within the vehicle in such a position that any fares and charges are visible to persons traveling in the vehicle.

24.4 The taximeter shall be calibrated to the Council agreed tariffs currently in force and sealed with an official Lichfield District Council seal by a person authorised by the Council to seal taximeters. The taximeter must be sealed in such a way that the calibration of the meter cannot be tampered with.

- 24.5 The taximeter fitted to the vehicle shall be subject to testing on demand to be carried out by the Council, to ensure that it is calibrated to the fare table currently in force at the time.
- 24.6 Any Council seal which is tampered with, without good reason, will render the licence holder and vehicle liable to formal action by the Council.
- 24.7 The taximeter must be used for all fares taken and the maximum fare charged is that displayed on the meter.
- 24.8 For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in the above condition shall prevent or prohibit a driver charging less than the prescribed fare (which is intended as a maximum fare only). The meter must not be started until the hirer is sat in the vehicle and must be operated for the entire journey.

25.0 CCTV

- 25.1 CCTV cameras may be installed in vehicles, provided their use is clearly signed within the vehicle and all regulations covering the use of such equipment is adhered to.

26.0 Offences and Penalties

- 26.1 Contravention of these conditions constitute an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In addition it is also an offence to obstruct an authorised officer or Police Officer in his duty. Any person who commits an offence against any of the provisions of this Part of this Act in respect of which no penalty is expressly provided shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 3 on the standard scale. Contravention may also result in suspension or revocation of the licence in accordance with the statutory provision

27.0 Revocation and Modification of Conditions

- 27.1 The Council reserves the right,(at its own behest and at any time) to revoke, vary, or modify any of these conditions and/or to make such additional conditions as it may deem requisite, either generally or in respect of any particular licence or occasion.