

Policy Area:	Driving standards & proficiency assessment(s)
Subject:	Acceptance of Blue Lamp Trust driver assessment package for driver licensing
Reference:	13/03402/TAXGEN

BLUE LAMP TRUST TAXI DRIVER ASSESSMENT NOW ACCEPTED

Rushmoor Borough Council will now accept the Blue Lamp Trust (BLT) taxi driver assessment package as a suitable alternative / equivalent to the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) driving and proficiency assessment for taxi and private hire drivers (TPH10).

However, to make sure that equal standards are maintained, there are specific requirements that must be met as part of the BLT driver assessment package. Candidates wishing to use the BLT as part of their application for a hackney carriage and/or private hire driver's licence must, when booking a BLT assessment, make sure that it is tailored to the licensing requirements of Rushmoor Borough Council.

As the BLT do not currently include a wheelchair test element as part of their driver assessment package(s), anyone subject to these application requirements will need to do this with the DSA (or other suitable equivalent approved in advance). As we maintain a 100% wheelchair accessible fleet, this will mainly affect prospective hackney carriage drivers but may also affect a limited number of private hire driver applicants; including those that also wish to upgrade their private hire driver's licence to [include] a hackney carriage drivers licence (whether held as a joint licence or held in isolation).

Applicants who are uncertain of their application requirements should contact the licensing team in advance by **telephone:** 01252 398855, or **email:** licensing@rushmoor.gov.uk.

Contact Details:

Further details about the BLT taxi driver assessment are available from:

Address: The Blue Lamp Trust
C/o Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Telephone: 0300 777 0157

Email: info@bluelamptrust.org.uk

Website: www.bluelamptrust.org.uk

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POLICIES & JUSTIFICATION(S)

Acceptance of Blue Lamp Trust Taxi Driver Assessment

Excerpt from Taxi Licensing Policy v1.0 05.10.12		
Page 29	5.104	The licensing authority notes that driving skills and abilities can vary with age, driving style, experience, differences in driving environments, social and/or cultural norms (e.g. driving on the left / right) etc. Accordingly, it is the policy of the licensing authority to ensure that those who provide a hackney carriage and/or private hire driving service can demonstrate a sufficient level of driving competence commensurate with the provision of a public transportation service (i.e. at an elevated level above the DVLA learner driver test (or equivalent)).
	5.105	For these reasons, the licensing authority will normally require all first-time applicants to submit a suitable certificate of completion (form TPH10) of a driving standards and proficiency assessment specifically designed for hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicle drivers by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) (or suitable equivalent).

Following agreement with the BLT, applicants applying for a hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicle driver's licence through Rushmoor Borough Council will be subject to a tailored assessment package equivalent to the baseline standards and content of the DSA driving and proficiency assessment for taxi and private hire drivers (TPH10).

Limitations

Excerpt from Taxi Licensing Policy v1.0 05.10.12		
Page 30	5.110	Some wheelchair users may require driver assistance to safely enter, travel in and alight from a licensed vehicle. Accordingly, it is the policy of the licensing authority to ensure that those who provide a wheelchair accessible driving service can demonstrate a sufficient level of competence in the (un)loading, security and safety of wheelchair users to a level commensurate with this role.
	5.111	For these reasons, the licensing authority will normally require all first-time applicants that seek to provide a wheelchair accessible service, to submit a suitable certificate of completion (form WTA10) of an enhanced wheelchair (un)loading assessment specifically designed for hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicle drivers by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) (or suitable equivalent).

Regrettably, at the time of writing, the Blue Lamp Trust do not currently provide for any wheelchair test element within their driver assessment package(s). Therefore, anyone who needs to submit this aspect of our application requirements will need to do this with the DSA; unless some other suitable equivalent can be found and approved in advance.

Date: 18th October 2013
Date Effective: 18th October 2013


JOHN McNAB
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