

## RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

### SPECIFICATION OF FITNESS FOR VEHICLES TO BE LICENSED AS HACKNEY CARRIAGES

#### GENERAL

1. All vehicles must comply in all respects with the requirements of any Acts and Regulations relating to motor vehicles in force at the time of licensing.
2.
  - a) All vehicles submitted for the grant of a Hackney Carriage licence shall be **new purpose built vehicles**, designed, constructed or adapted so as to be capable of carrying wheelchair-bound passengers and must be in compliance with this specification.
  - b) All new vehicles must be licensed by the Council within 28 days of the initial registration with the DVLA.
  - c) Second-hand vehicles, otherwise converted vehicles and saloon type vehicles will **not** be eligible for the grant of a Hackney Carriage licence.

#### **PART A: Items to be considered by the Licensing Committee Taxi Viewing Panel and the Council's Disabled Access Officer.**

##### **1. Windows**

Passenger door windows must be capable of being opened easily by passengers when seated.

##### **2. Steps**

- a) The top of the tread of the lowest step for any entrance (or where there is no step, the floor level itself at the entrance) must not be more than 38 cms above the ground when the vehicle is unladen.
- b) Apertures in the floor used for the purposes of a step must be covered so as to form a continuous flat floor area when the doors are closed.
- c) The risers of all steps must be closed.
- d) All steps, or where there are no steps, the outer edge of the floor at each entrance, must be fitted with non-slip treads which must be highly visible at all times.

##### **3. Interior Lighting**

Adequate lighting must be provided for the passengers' compartment and must be capable of being controlled both by passengers and driver. Adequate lighting must be provided in the driver's compartment.

#### **4. Floor Covering**

The flooring of the passengers' compartment must be covered with non-slip material which can be cleaned easily.

#### **5. Luggage**

Provision must be made for carrying luggage appropriate to the number and type of passengers and an efficient method of securing it must be provided.

#### **6. Wheelchair Facilities**

- a) A three point seatbelt assembly together with suitable wheelchair restraints must be provided for the use of wheelchair occupants.
- b) Anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and chairbound disabled person to the latest industry standard. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other.
- c) Anchorages must be provided for the safe stowage of a wheelchair when not in use, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints must be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers at any time.
- d) Safety notices must be displayed to:
  - i) advise that it remains the responsibility of the driver to ensure security of both the wheelchair and the passenger
  - ii) advise that it is also the responsibility of disabled passengers to check their own safety
- e) A ramp(s) for the (un)loading of wheelchair passengers must be available at all times for the safe access and egress of passengers. Adequate locating device(s) must be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use. The ramp(s) must be of sufficient strength and stability such that they will not bend and will remain stable during use and must be of a safe working limit of at least 300 kg over its entire length. The ramp(s) must be capable of being stowed away securely and safely when not in use.

#### **7. Fire Extinguishers**

A 1 kg dry powder fire extinguisher must be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use at all times. It must be maintained to the relevant British Standard and in accordance with manufacturers instructions.

## **8. High visibility fittings**

Hand contact points, handles and head contact hazards must be identified in high visibility materials and easily distinguishable. Suitable means must be provided to assist persons to rise from the rear seat.

## **9. First Aid Kit**

A first aid kit must be carried on the vehicle and maintained at all times. The kit should contain at least the following:

- 10 moist antiseptic wipes (individually wrapped)
- 2 triangular bandages (individually wrapped)
- Individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings (24 assorted sizes)
- 3 large sterile unmedicated ambulance dressings (not less than 15.0cmx20.0cm)
- 2 sterile eye pads with attachments
- 12 assorted safety pins
- 1 pair of rustless blunt ended scissors
- Safety pins (10 assorted)
- 5 pairs of sterile disposable gloves

**PART B: The vehicle must meet the current standards of European Whole Vehicle Type Approval process as determined by the Vehicle Certification Agency. In addition, the vehicle must meet the following requirements:**

### **1. Steering**

The steering wheel must be on the off-side of the vehicle.

### **2. Tyres**

- a) All tyres at normal pressure under load must be approved as having a suitable minimum circumference for correct operation of the taximeter.
- b) Remould tyres will not be permitted in any circumstances.

### **3. Body**

- a) The body must be of the fixed head type.
- b) The door and doorway must be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the doorway of at least 750 mm when the door is opened to its normal limit.
- c) The clear height of the doorway must not be less than 1.195 metres.
- d) Where a boot lid is hinged at the bottom, a restriction must be fitted to prevent the boot lid serving as a luggage platform.

#### **4. Passengers' Seats**

- a) Where seats are placed facing each other there must be a clear space of 48 cms between any part of the front of a seat and any part of any other seat which faces it. This measurement may be reduced to 43.5 cms provided adequate foot room is maintained at floor level. Where all seats are placed facing to the front of the vehicle, there must be a clear space of at least 66 cms in front of every part of each seat cushion.
- b) Rear facing seats must be so arranged as to rise automatically when not in use. They must be symmetrically placed and at least 4 cms apart. When not in use front seats must not obstruct doorways.

#### **5. Driver's Compartment**

- a) The driver's compartment must be so designed that the driver has adequate room, can easily reach and quickly operate the controls and give hand signals on the off-side of the vehicle.
- b) The controls must be so placed as to allow reasonable access to the driver's seat and, when centrally placed, must be properly protected from contact with luggage.
- c) The driver's seat must be designed to accommodate the driver only and be adjustable for height and reach.

#### **6. Heating and Ventilation.**

An adequate heating and ventilation system must be fitted and maintained in good working order for the driver and passengers and means provided for independent control by the driver and passengers.

#### **7. Door Fittings**

- a) An approved type of automatic door locking device must be fitted to passenger doors. Double catches of approved type must be fitted to all doors.
- b) When the vehicle is stationary, the passenger doors must be capable of being readily opened from the inside and outside the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism. The interior door handle must be easily identified so as not to be mistaken for any other control.

#### **8. Tariff Chart and Number Plate**

A frame must be provided for the Fare Tariff Chart and interior number plate and fitted in an approved position. The words "The Number of this vehicle is . . . . . " are to be shown above the position for the interior number plate.

**9. Taximeter**

A taximeter that is sealed and calendarised of approved type must be fitted in an approved position so as to be visible to passengers.

**10. "Taxi" Signs**

A "Taxi" sign of approved type, clearly visible both by day and at all times by night when the vehicle is not hired, must be fitted. The design must be such that the illuminating light can be switched off when the vehicle is hired.

**11. Radio**

Where apparatus for the operation of a two-way radio system is fitted to a vehicle, no part of the apparatus may be fixed in the passengers' compartment or in the rear boot compartment. Any other radio receiver fitting, either in the passenger or driver compartment, must be approved.

**12. Fittings**

No fittings other than those approved may be attached to or carried upon the inside or outside of the cab.

**13. Registration Number Plate**

Letters and figures must be black on white to the front and black on yellow to the rear and made of reflective material to comply with the latest BS and/or EU Regulations in force for the time being.

**14. Maintenance**

Vehicles, including all fittings, must be well maintained and kept clean and in good working order. The vehicles will at all times be subject to test and inspection, and should it be found that a vehicle is not being properly maintained or that any part or fitting is not in good working order, a notice will be served on the owner prohibiting him from using the vehicle until the defect has been remedied.

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