

# Kirklees Council Vehicle Specification

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Amended February 2023

## Part A – Vehicle Specification - Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Above the normal requirements for a MOT test, the Authority's Hackney Carriage test examines the following items.

### HACKNEY CARRIAGES

1.0 Local Authority conditions for licensing.

1.1 The whole of the vehicles paint work must be coloured white (two tone paint work, coloured mouldings or insignia will not be permitted).

1.2 For Hackney carriage vehicles to be considered for first licensing, they must meet the following emissions criteria:

Petrol engines – Must meet Euro 5 standards.

Diesel engines – Must meet Euro 6 standards.

The authority recognizes the need for additional wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's) within the licensed trade. New licensed WAVs powered by a diesel engine will be allowed to meet the lower euro 5 diesel standards and not euro 6 standards.

1.3 The vehicle must have Kirklees Council's official door sign displayed on top panel of the two front doors. The official door signs for Hackney Carriage vehicles are produced in house by the licensing service, unless otherwise agreed. The door signs to be of the adhesive type and securely attached to doors. Any sign not securely fitted i.e. placed on magnetic backing or any other temporary measure may result in the failure of the compliance test or suspension of the vehicle licence. It is however accepted that some Hackney Carriage drivers also obtain work through private hire operators. Should this be the case, then a logo displaying the name of the private hire operator can be fixed to the vehicle via a magnetic backing. This logo will be provided by the driver and not the licensing service.

Any tampering or cutting up of the signs may result in the failure of the compliance test or the suspension of the vehicle licence and new ones required. Any signs that become damaged or defaced will require new ones.

1.4 The vehicle must have a roof mounted illuminated taxi sign with the exception of London type cabs. The roof sign must be clearly visible from both the front and the rear of the vehicle.

1.5 The vehicle must be fitted with a tariff meter approved by the Authority. The meter must be fitted securely, horizontal, clearly visible to all passengers, in working condition, professionally installed and set to the Authority's current tariff. The tariff card to be clearly displayed on near side window.

1.6 The vehicle must have a fire extinguisher (minimum weight of 0.95 kg and of a dry powder type. The fire extinguisher to be replaced after three years or carry a twelve-monthly service label to indicate extinguisher is still serviceable. The fire extinguisher

may be securely fixed within the driver's compartment or rear boot area; it may also be stowed in the glove box but must be clearly marked.

- 1.7 All Hackney carriage vehicles must have a seat belt that meets British safety standards fitted to each seat.
- 1.8 All diesel-powered Hackney Carriage Euro 5 vehicles, with the exception of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV's) will cease to be licensed at 10 years old.
- 1.9 All Hackney Carriage vehicles except for WAV's will cease to be licensed at 13 years old.
- 1.10 All wheelchair-accessible Hackney Carriage vehicles will cease to be licensed at 16 years old.

#### ***Definition of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV's)***

*A WAV is a vehicle constructed or converted specifically so that it can accommodate one or more person(s) seated in the wheelchair(s) when travelling on the road.*

- 1.11 All Hackney Carriage Ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV's) will cease being licensed at 16 years old. Between years 13 to 16, the vehicle will be subject to two compliance checks a year at 6 monthly intervals.

#### ***Definition of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)***

*ULEVs are currently defined as having less than 75 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer (g/km) from the tail pipe. The CO<sub>2</sub> count can be ascertained using the following website [GOV.UK Get vehicle information from DVLA](https://gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla)*

- 1.12 The authority recognises the national and industry-wide push for the greater use of environmentally friendly all electric vehicles. This is especially so given that new vehicles fitted with internal combustion engines are due to be banned from sale in the UK from 2030. It is anticipated that within the coming years, all electric vehicles will start to be used within the licensed trade as the charging infrastructure and battery technology improves.
- 1.13 There is currently no requirement for CCTV to be installed within Hackney Carriage vehicles. However, the licensing service will allow drivers to install CCTV in their vehicles should they desire. Any installation of CCTV must not interfere with the normal operation of the vehicle and/or visibility out of the vehicle windows. If a driver decides to install CCTV, they must ensure that they are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and abide by their rules. Further information on this can be found at the [Information Commissioner's Office \(ico\)](https://ico.org.uk).
- 1.14 All licensed Hackney carriage vehicles are tested at the Council's testing stations. Test are conducted at the time of being licensed and upon renewal. The test carried out is a compliance test and not an MOT. Should Licence holders/vehicle proprietors wish to have an MOT at the time of the compliance test this must be requested prior to the test commencing and will result in an additional charge. Failure to do so will result in the

issuing of an MOT certificate not being possible.

- 1.15 48 hours notification of a test cancellation must be given, failure to do so will result in a further payment for a test being charged and no refund will be provided.
- 1.16 Where the Council is not satisfied with the roadworthiness of a Hackney Carriage vehicle, it may request a HPI check at a cost to the licence holder. Should that HPI check reveal that the vehicle is an insurance total loss, then the vehicle may have to undergo an independent inspection and an 'Autolign' report produced at the cost of the licence holder.
- 1.17 Where a Hackney carriage vehicle fails its test and the tester is not satisfied as to the roadworthiness of the vehicle, the vehicle licence may be suspended by an authorised officer of the Council.
- 1.18 Should a Hackney Carriage vehicle licence be suspended, then it cannot lawfully be driven on the public highway without a valid MOT certificate in place.
- 1.19 Any Hackney Carriage vehicle whose licence has been suspended due to accident damage, may have to be taken to the Council's testing stations to be examined. This is to ensure that any repairs have been made satisfactorily and that the vehicle is roadworthy.
- 1.20 The law requires that front vehicle windscreens must permit a minimum of 75% light transmission and front passenger windows 70%. The Council will allow manufacturers standard tints on all other windows, excluding the front vehicle windscreen and the front passenger windows. This must only be the standard level of window tint. Blackout or privacy glass is not permitted. Self-applied material/film is not permitted.
- 1.21 There are three types of Hackney Carriage vehicle licence. These are:
- **A new licence** – a licence that is issued when the vehicle is first licensed following an application for a new vehicle licence being submitted.
  - **A renewal** – a renewal licence is issued annually following an application to renew being submitted.
  - **A transfer** – A transfer is an application to transfer the vehicle and its current licence to a new proprietor (owner).

## INTERIOR

- 2.1 All controls must be in a serviceable and working order (drivers pedals, all switches and controls etc).
- 2.2 No left-hand drive vehicles to be authorised.
- 2.3 The vehicles interior condition must be clean and free from damage.
- 2.4 All seat belts must be secure and operational, of a lap and diagonal type fitted to all Hackney carriage vehicles. With the exception of a lap belt only fitted to middle rear seat of a saloon type vehicle.

- 2.5 All windows, sun-roofs, locks and handles must be secure and operational.
- 2.6 Interior lights and instrument lights must be operational.
- 2.7 Where automatic boot and fuel locks are fitted they must be operational.
- 2.8 The vehicles heating and ventilation systems must be operational (including heated windows).
- 2.9 Where electric mirrors are fitted they must be operational.
- 2.10 Seating capacity to be no more than six passengers (maximum).

## **EXTERIOR**

- 3.1 All fitted lights must be clean and in working order.
- 3.2 All windows must have full visibility and free of stickers etc (other than the legal requirements of a licence disc). With the exception of a company name/logo to the front screen visor.
- 3.3 When fitted rear wash wipe and headlight wash wiper systems must be operational.
- 3.4 All body fitments must be in place, secure and free from damage.
- 3.5 Vehicles must have a matching set of wheel trims fitted (with the exception of alloy or chrome wheels).
- 3.6 All road tyres must be of the same size and speed rating
- 3.7 Tyre side wall repairs will not be acceptable.
- 3.8 Wiring of meter equipment/radios must be of a professional standard (correct cable, fastenings and inline fuses to be fitted).
- 3.9 Engine and gearbox mountings must be secure and of a serviceable condition, gearbox and gear change mechanism must be in good working order.
- 3.10 Paint work must be to manufactures standards (no blemishes, blistering, discolouration, runs, no visible rust spots and have a polished finish).
- 3.11 The legal VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) plate and chassis plate must be fitted in a legible state.
- 3.12 Vehicle must display the Authorities licence plate which when viewed from the rear is clearly visible. The plate to be permanently attached to the vehicle.
- 3.13 The suspension must not be modified or lowered in any way that could adversely affect the handling, ride comfort or safety of the vehicle.

3.14 The fitting of bull bar type attachments is strictly prohibited.

3.15 No jeep type vehicles to be allowed.

## **Multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs)**

### **4 MPVs**

4.1 With the introduction of multi- purpose vehicles that can carry more than four passengers, the acceptance criteria may vary from vehicle to vehicle depending on luggage space, seating layout and measurements. Each vehicle will be assessed individually for acceptance to carry adult passengers.

### **5 ADDITIONAL**

5.1 Above the annual test vehicles can be subject to 3 checks per year for safety and condition when required.

5.2 The London Cab on some models is equipped with a vinyl roof which will be accepted.

5.3 All accident damage must be repaired before test/checks can be carried out.

5.4 Where a vehicle is presented for a test for the first time, i.e. new application or a change of vehicle class, the test may be carried out without side door signs, roof lights, meter, a limpet for hire sign and fire extinguisher although a pass certificate will not be issued until all the appropriate items above have been fitted and check.

## Part B – Vehicle Specification - Private Hire Vehicles

Above the normal requirements for an MOT test, the Authority's Private Hire Test examines the following items.

### PRIVATE HIRE

- 1.1. The vehicle must not resemble a Hackney Carriage.
- 1.2. The licensing service understands the importance that members of the public can differentiate between Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Private Hire vehicles. Within Kirklees all Hackney Carriage vehicles are white in colour and display a 'taxi' roof sign. No 'new' vehicle licences will be issued to Private Hire vehicles that are white in colour. Any existing Private Hire vehicles that are white in colour will be allowed to remain licensed and renewed until they reach the upper age limit of a licensed Private Hire vehicle.
- 1.3. The vehicle must have Kirklees Council's official door sign displayed on the top panel of the two front doors. The official door signs for Private Hire vehicles are produced in house by the licensing service, unless otherwise agreed. The door signs to be of the adhesive type and securely attached to the doors. Any sign not securely fitted i.e. placed on magnetic backing or any other temporary measure may result in the failure of the compliance test or suspension of the vehicle licence. Any tampering or cutting up of the signs may result in the failure of the compliance test or the suspension of the vehicle licence and new ones required. Any signs that become damaged or defaced will require new ones. It is acknowledged however, that many Private Hire drivers obtain work through more than one Private Hire Operator. The licensing service will allow drivers to utilise the logo of the Private Hire Operator for whom they are working through at the time and attach it to the vehicle via a magnetic backing. The word 'taxi' is not permitted to be used on the logo. The logo will be provided by the driver and not the licensing service.
- 1.4. The vehicle must have a fire extinguisher (minimum weight of 0.95 kg and of a dry powder type). The fire extinguisher to be replaced after three years or carry a twelve-monthly service label to indicate extinguisher is still serviceable. The fire extinguisher may be securely fixed within the driver's compartment or rear boot area; it may also be stowed in the glove box but must be clearly marked.
- 1.5. All private hire vehicles must have a seat belt that meets British safety standards fitted to each seat.
- 1.6. For Private Hire vehicles to be considered for first licensing, they must meet the following emissions criteria:
  - Petrol engines – Must meet Euro 5 standards.
  - Diesel engines – Must meet Euro 6 standards.

The authority recognizes the need for additional wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's) within the licensed trade. New licensed WAV's powered by a diesel engine will be allowed to meet the lower Euro 5 diesel standards and not Euro 6 standards.

### **Definition of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles**

*A WAV is a vehicle constructed or converted specifically so that it can accommodate one or more person(s) seated in the wheelchair(s) when travelling on the road.*

- 1.7. All diesel-powered Private Hire Euro 5 vehicles, with the exception of WAV's will cease to be licensed at 10 years old.
- 1.8. All Private Hire vehicles except for WAV's will cease to be licensed at 13 years old.
- 1.9. All wheelchair-accessible private Hire vehicles will cease to be licensed at 16 years old.
- 1.10. All Private Hire Ultra Low Emission vehicles (ULEV's) will cease to be licensed at 16 years old.

### **Definition of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)**

ULEVs are currently defined as having less than 75 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer (g/km) from the tail pipe. The CO<sub>2</sub> count can be ascertained using the following website - [GOV.UK Get vehicle information from DVLA](http://GOV.UK/Get-vehicle-information-from-DVLA)

- 1.11. The authority recognises the national and industry-wide push for the greater use of environmentally friendly all electric vehicles. This is especially so given that new vehicles fitted with internal combustion engines are to be banned from sale in the UK from 2030. It is anticipated that within the coming years, all electric vehicles will start to be used within the licensed trade as the charging infrastructure and battery technology improves. Any all-electric Private Hire vehicles used within the licensed trade can remain licensed until 20 years of age.
- 1.12. There is currently no requirement for CCTV to be installed in private Hire vehicles. However, the licensing service will allow drivers to install CCTV in their vehicles should they desire. Any installation of CCTV must not interfere with the normal operation of the vehicle and/or visibility out of the vehicle windows. If a driver decides to install CCTV, they must ensure they are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and abide by their rules. Further information can be found at [Information Commissioner's Office \(ico\)](http://Information-Commissioner's-Office(ico)).
- 1.13. All licensed Private Hire vehicles are tested at the Council's testing stations. Tests are conducted at the time of being licensed and upon renewal. The test carried out is a compliance test and not an MOT. Should Licence holders/vehicle proprietors wish to have an MOT at the time of the compliance test this must be requested prior to the test commencing and will result in an additional charge. Failure to do so will result in the issuing of an MOT certificate not being possible.
- 1.14. 48 hours' notification of a test cancellation must be given, failure to do so may result in a further payment for a test being charged.
- 1.15. Where the Council is not satisfied with the roadworthiness of a Private Hire vehicle, it may request a HPI check at a cost to the licence holder. Should that HPI check reveal that the vehicle is an insurance total loss, then the vehicle may have to undergo an



independent inspection and an 'Autolign' report produced at the cost of the licence holder.

- 1.16. Where a Private Hire vehicle fails its test, and the tester is not satisfied as to the roadworthiness of the vehicle, the vehicle licence may be suspended by an authorised officer of the Council.
- 1.17. Should a Private Hire vehicle licence be suspended, then it cannot lawfully be driven on the public highway without a valid MOT certificate in place.
- 1.18. Any Private Hire vehicle whose licence has been suspended due to accident damage, may have to be taken to the Council's testing stations to be examined. This is to ensure any repairs have been made satisfactorily and that the vehicle is roadworthy.
- 1.19. The law requires that front vehicle windscreens must permit a minimum of 75% light transmission and front passenger windows 70%. The Council will allow manufacturers standard tints on all other windows, excluding the front vehicle windscreen and the front passenger windows. This must only be of the standard level of window tint/ Blackout or privacy glass is not permitted. Self-applied material/film is not permitted.
- 1.20. There are three types of Private Hire vehicle licence, these are:
  - **A new licence** – a licence that is issued when the vehicle is first licensed following an application for a new vehicle licence being submitted.
  - **A renewal** – a renewal licence is issued annually following an application to renew being submitted.
  - **A transfer** – A transfer is an application to transfer the vehicle and its current licence to a new proprietor (owner).

## INTERIOR

- 2.1 All controls must be in a serviceable and working order (drivers pedals, all switches and controls etc).
- 2.2 No left-hand drive vehicles to be authorised.
- 2.3 The vehicles interior condition must be clean and free from damage.
- 2.4 All seat belts must be secure and operational, of a lap and diagonal type fitted to all Private Hire vehicles. With the exception of a lap belt only fitted to the middle front compartment seat and middle rear seat of a saloon-type vehicle.
- 2.5 All windows, sun-roofs, locks and handles must be secure and operational.
- 2.6 Interior lights and instrument lights must be operational
- 2.7 Where automatic boot and fuel locks are fitted they must be operational

- 2.8 The vehicles heating and ventilation systems must be operational (including heated windows).
- 2.9 Where electric mirrors are fitted they must be operational.
- 2.10 Seating capacity to be no more than eight passengers (maximum).
- 2.11 Where short wave radios are fitted they must be securely attached to the vehicle in a position which does not interfere with all driving controls (all foot controls, steering, etc) of that vehicle. The wiring must also be installed to a professional standard and should not interfere with the same driving controls.

## **EXTERIOR**

- 3.1 All fitted lights must be clean and in working order.
- 3.2 All windows must have full visibility and free of stickers other than the licence disc.
- 3.3 When fitted rear wash wipe and headlight wash wiper systems must be operational.
- 3.4 All body fitments must be in place, secure and free from damage.
- 3.5 Vehicles must have a matching set of wheel trims fitted (with the exception of alloy or chrome wheels).
- 3.6 All road tyres must be of the same size and speed rating.
- 3.7 Tyre side wall repairs will not be acceptable.
- 3.8 Wiring of meter equipment/radios must be of a professional standard (correct cable, fastenings and inline fuses to be fitted).
- 3.9 Engine and gearbox mountings must be secure and of a serviceable condition, gearbox and gear change mechanism must be in good working order.
- 3.10 Paint work must be to manufactures standards (no blemishes, blistering, discolouration, runs, no visible rust spots and have a polished finish).
- 3.11 The legal VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) plate and chassis plate must be fitted in a legible state.
- 3.12 Vehicle must display the Authorities licence plate which when viewed from the rear is clearly visible. The plate to be permanently attached to the vehicle.
- 3.13 The suspension must not be modified or lowered in any way that could adversely affect the handling, ride comfort or safety of the vehicle.
- 3.14 The fitting of bull bar type attachments is strictly prohibited.

## **TRAILERS**

- 4.2 Trailers must be of an all-metal construction with a secure lockable hardtop cover.
- 4.3 Trailer weight not to exceed 750kg gross vehicle weight.
- 4.4 Must have all relevant lights fitted and working.
- 4.5 Trailer must be licensed to one specific vehicle only (no multi vehicle use allowed).
- 4.6 Trailer to be tested annually with relevant vehicle.
- 4.7 Towing vehicle must have two side entry doors for ease of escape in the event of an emergency.
- 4.8 National speed limits apply when towing trailer.
- 4.9 Trailers to be used by MPV type vehicles only.

## **Multi-purpose vehicles (MPV)**

- 5.1 With the introduction of multi- purpose vehicles that can carry more than four passengers, the acceptance criteria may vary from vehicle to vehicle depending on luggage space, seating layout and measurements. Each vehicle will be assessed individually for acceptance to carry adult passengers.

## **ADDITIONAL**

- 6.1 Above the annual test vehicles can be subject to 3 checks per year for safety and condition when required.
- 6.2 All accident damage must be repaired before test/checks can be carried out.

## Part C – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Dimensions

### Saloon Type Cars

- A. The width of the rear part of the body, measured six inches below the top and six inches in front of the rear back seat shall not be less than 52 inches. The measurement made with the doors closed.
- B. The rear seat shall not be less in width than the full interior width of the vehicle, provided that wheel covers forming permanent armrests may reduce the seat length to 48 inches.
- C. The front seat shall not be less than 18 inches in width.
- D. The front and rear door entry width measured from the inside of the door seal aperture shall not be less than 24 inches.
- E. Rear seat headroom shall not be less than 33 inches.
- F. The depth of any fixed seat shall not be less than 18 inches
- G. The distance between the front and rear seats shall be a minimum distance of 6 inches with the front seat fully retracted with the seat back in a normal driving position.
- H. Minimum height from ground 5.75 inches to main structure of vehicle, i.e height ground to undersill (structural member) or subframe/front box section. Sufficient clear and clean internal luggage capacity for maximum number of passengers.

### Vans, Minibuses and MPV's

- A. Internal floor-to-roof height 52 inches
- B. Seat bases 16.5 x 16.5 inches
- C. Wheelchair access door height 46 inches
- D. Wheelchair access door width 27 inches
- E. Wheelchair floor space and method of securing to comply with all relevant legislation.
- F. Luggage space compatible with seating capacity
- G. Taxi hire sign to be mounted at the centre of the roof in the front position (as with a London cab)
- H. A fire extinguisher to be a minimum of 1kg accessible from the driver's seat.
- I. Seat base to roof height 33 inches

The above are the current dimensions which we use but due to changing vehicle types may be reviewed and changed periodically.