

Proposed specification

Vehicle Licences

Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Licensing a New Hackney Carriage Vehicle

The following requirements are applicable to all applications for new hackney carriage vehicle licences. The vehicle must:

- a) Be disabled accessible as per London Public Carriage Office Specification, Eurocab M1 Specification or such other nationally accepted specification as is agreed by the Council;
- b) Be silver in colour (as identified on the vehicle's registration document);
- c) Be less than 5 years from date of manufacture;
- d) Comply with vehicle specifications (see Appendix B);
- e) Be fitted with an approved roof sign bearing the word "TAXI";
- f) Be compliant with the council's emission standards;
- g) Be fitted with a meter of an approved type with the fares charged as determined by the Council.

Replacing a Licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicle

On the 6th of March 2018, the council's Cabinet approved changes to the hackney carriage vehicle licensing policy. Under the policy change, all licensed hackney carriage vehicles must be wheelchair accessible by 2021 ("the WAV policy").

The standards below apply to existing hackney carriage vehicle proprietor licence holders who have to replace their licensed hackney carriage vehicles in order to comply with the WAV policy.

Specification for Replacement Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Vehicle requirements, safety and comfort

- a) All vehicles will be licensed on their individual merit and designed or adapted to the London Public Carriage Office Specification, Eurocab M1 Specification or such other nationally accepted specification as is agreed by the council.
- b) The vehicle must be capable of accommodating at least one "reference wheelchair"¹ in either a forward or rear facing position whilst they remain seated in the wheelchair allowing adequate space to ensure the safety and comfort of the wheelchair user, and without interfering with the safety and comfort of any other passengers.
- c) Be silver in colour (as identified on the vehicle's registration document).

¹ As defined in Schedule 1 of the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000

- d) Be right-hand drive.
- e) Be less than 5 years from date of manufacture (as identified in the vehicle's registration document).
- f) Be fitted with an approved roof sign bearing the word "TAXI" (integrated or freestanding).
- g) Be manufactured to EU Emissions Standard 5 or a higher standard.
- h) Be fitted with a meter of an approved type with the fares charged as determined by the council.
- i) Be capable of carrying not less than 4² and not more than 8 passengers with the provision of a seatbelt and head restraint for each passenger.
- j) Windows must be provided at the rear and sides along with means of opening and closing not less than one window on either side.

Access

- k) In the case of all vehicles which are built or adapted for disabled passengers, the design of the vehicle should ensure that any wheelchair is loaded from the side or the rear of the vehicle.
- l) Should have a minimum 4 doors, which are capable of being opened from the inside. The rear passenger compartment must have an openable door on either side of the vehicle.
- m) The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and the roof in the wheelchair passenger area must be no less than 1.3 metres.
- n) Rear doors to have mechanism to positively hold them open.

Anchorage & Restraints

- o) Approved anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair. These anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked and capable of withstanding approved dynamic or static tests.
- p) The anchorage must be of the manufacturer's design and construction and secured in such a position as not to obstruct any emergency exit.
- q) Wheelchair internal anchorage must be installed and fitted by a competent person able to verify in a professional capacity that it has been fitted in accordance with all relevant legislative safety standards and requirements.
- r) Restraints for the wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other.
- s) All passenger seats to have three point lap fully operational diagonal seatbelts, one for each passenger carried, fully compliant with British Standards except where the law specifically exempts.
- t) Access to and exit from the wheelchair position must not be obstructed in any manner at any time except by wheelchair loading apparatus.

Ramps

- u) A single ramp must be of a suitable design to ensure that it does not slip or tilt when in use and provide a suitable gradient when in use.
- v) Ramps and lifts must be securely stored in the vehicle before it may move.

² The exception to the minimum of 4 passengers will be when the vehicle is carrying a wheelchair

Renewing a Hackney Carriage vehicle licence

Non-wheelchair accessible licensed hackney carriage vehicles will continue to be (re)licensed until 2021. After this date, all licensed hackney carriage vehicles must be wheelchair accessible in accordance with the specification above.

The council will (re)license a hackney carriage vehicle in accordance with the time periods below:

- a) Purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles³: 14 years (from date of registration)
- b) Vehicles converted or adapted to carry wheelchairs: 10 years (from date of registration)

1.1 Proposed transitional arrangements for existing WAVs

Existing hackney carriage WAVs (i.e. before March 2018) manufactured between 2005 to 2012 will continued to be licensed for 14 years respectively.

Existing hackney carriage vehicles manufactured from 2013 onwards will continue to be licensed in accordance with the time periods below:

- a) Purpose built WAVs: 14 years (from date of manufacture)
- b) Vehicles converted or adapted to carry wheelchairs: 10 years (from date of manufacture)

³ Is a vehicle purpose built that has come off a production line as a taxi capable of carrying a wheelchair.