

Appendix 2 - Transport for London Consultation on the Licensing of Pedicabs, June 2006

Proposed conditions of fitness for pedicabs

Recognising that pedicabs are expected to be regarded as taxis, these draft Conditions of Fitness for Pedicabs are based on the existing Conditions of Fitness for motor hackney carriages (MHCs) in London with appropriate modifications. The final document may be published as an Annex to the Conditions of Fitness for MHCs.

Transport for London Public Carriage Office Conditions of Fitness for Pedicabs

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Part 2 - Conditions of Fitness

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Notes

- a) In these Conditions the "Licensing Authority" means Transport for London which will exercise the duties imposed by the London Cab Order 1934 as amended by the Greater London Authority Act 1999.
- b) The term "approved" in the Conditions of Fitness refers to approval by the PCO Head of Vehicle Inspections and Standards.
- c) Transport for London's Conditions of Fitness in Part 2 and Directions in Part 3 are laid down or made in accordance with the terms of paragraphs 7 and 14 respectively of the London Cab Order 1934, as amended.

- d) The Conditions of Fitness in Part 2 operate from the commencement of pedicab licensing. Vehicles that meet these conditions remain subject to the conditions while the vehicle is licensed unless specific amendments to the Conditions of Fitness for Pedicabs identify retrospective requirements.
- e) The Directions in Part 3 apply to all licensed vehicles.

Construction and licensing of pedicabs in London

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7 of the London Cab Order 1934, in pursuance of the Metropolitan Public Carriage Act 1869, no vehicle shall be licensed as a cab unless it is fit for public service and conforms to the requirements in this booklet. Where legislation identified within these Conditions of Fitness is amended then those amendments are automatically incorporated in these Conditions.

Issued by: The Public Carriage Office, 15 Penton Street, London, N1 9PU

Part 1 - Procedure to be followed by manufacturers and owners of pedicabs for use in London

1. New types of pedicab

a) Before constructing any new type of pedicab, manufacturers are advised to study the Conditions of Fitness set out in Part 2 of this booklet. Where the design or concept of the proposed vehicle is significantly different from those set out here, the manufacturer should send to the PCO Head of Vehicle Inspections and Standards dimensioned drawings or blueprints, together with detailed specifications of the proposed cycle, for advice as to its general suitability for public service in London. It is also advisable to arrange for a preliminary inspection. The address is:

The Public Carriage Office, 15 Penton Street, London, N1 9PU

b) In any case, application for the approval in advance of licensing of a pedicab must be made in writing to the Public Carriage Office, and must be accompanied by dimensioned drawings or blueprints, together with detailed specifications and any particulars required by the Head of Vehicle Inspections and Standards.

2. Presentation for vehicle licence

a) Before a pedicab licence can be issued, the vehicle must be presented at such passing station or other place that Transport for London may direct and any previous licence and licence plate must be returned.

b) A licence will be issued for a specified maximum number of passengers, based on the size of the passenger area and seating.

3. General

a) Even where the conditions set out in this booklet have been complied with, approval will be withheld if the Licensing Authority is of the opinion that a vehicle is unsuitable for public use.

b) Although the Licensing Authority may extend its approval of any particular type of pedicab to all other pedicabs conforming to the design of that type, he may withdraw such general approval if, in his opinion, any unsuitable features arise.

c) It is accepted that the nature of pedicabs, and in particular the differences between them and standard bicycles, may make it impractical to comply with all of the requirements of the standards and regulations referred to below. Allowances will therefore be made for situations identified below where it is not practical to comply.

Part 2 Conditions of fitness

N.B. The following requirements apply to all vehicles licensed in London, including those that have been modified after first licensing.

4. General construction

Every new and existing type of pedicab must comply where practicable with the requirements of:

a) BS EN 14766 2005 or equivalent;

b) The Pedal Cycle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1983; and,

c) The Pedal Bicycle (Safety) Regulations 2003 will apply to pedicabs regardless of seat height and classification as a bicycle.

5. Wheel configuration

Pedicabs will be so constructed that they will have a minimum of three wheels, at least two at the rear and one at the front. This will apply to all pedicabs unless the Head of Vehicle Inspections and Standards grant specific exemption.

6. Additional fittings

No fittings, other than those approved, may be attached to or carried on the inside or outside of the vehicle.

7. Lighting

Pedicabs must comply with the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 and must be fitted with:

- a) a minimum of one obligatory front position lamp, (as identified in schedule 2 of the lighting regulations). Two front position lamps will be required if the pedicab has four or more wheels.
- b) a minimum of two obligatory rear position lamps, (as identified in schedule 10 of the lighting regulations).
- c) a minimum of two obligatory rear retro reflectors, (as identified in schedule 18 of the above regulations).
- d) a minimum of two additional stop lamps, (as identified in schedule 12 of the lighting regulations). Illumination of the stop lamps may be switched by the operation of either or both braking systems, a decelerometer switch or another automatic means; and,
- e) directional indicators (identified as 'optional direction indicators' in schedule 7 of the lighting regulations) must be fitted. The visibility requirements of schedule 7 part 3 must be met.

Note: the above requirements may exceed the minimum requirements for pedal cycles.

8. Steering

The driving position must be the forward most position on the pedicab unless granted specific exemption by the Head of Vehicle Inspections and Standards. The steering when turned to full lock in either direction must not affect the stability of the vehicle when turning.

9. Tyres

All tyres must comply with the following requirements:

- a) the tread pattern should be clearly visible over the whole tread area, around the entire circumference and across the whole breadth of the tread.
- b) there should be no exposed cords; and,
- c) the load ratings of all tyres must be suitable for the pedicab when fully loaded.

Where a tyre does not display a maximum load weight, then the tyre manufacturer's technical information must be presented.

10. Wheel and tyre protection

a) All wheels (including the tyre and brake mechanism) that are in the vicinity of the passenger compartment must be covered for the protection of passengers or their clothing. It must not be possible for passengers or their clothing to touch any part that may rotate whilst riding on the vehicle.

11. Brakes

a) Braking systems used on pedicabs must comply where practicable with the requirements of BS EN 14766 2005, the Pedal Cycle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1983 and relevant EU Directives¹.

b) The braking system must be at least 50% efficient at all times, with or without passengers.

12. Electrical equipment

Any electrical installation to the pedicab, including the battery and switches must be:

- a) adequately insulated;
- b) suitably protected from contact by passengers;
- c) suitably fused;
- d) securely fitted; and
- e) permanently wired.

Any electrical equipment fitted must be maintained in good condition and fully functional. Any battery fitted must be of a type that will not leak.

13. Body

- a) The overall size of the pedicab will not exceed 1250mm in width (excluding rear view mirror) or 2650mm in length.
- b) There must be at least one mirror fitted to the offside of the vehicle in order to monitor other road users. A nearside mirror will also be permitted in order to monitor the view to the nearside.
- c) The outer edge of any entrance to the floor of the passenger compartment should not exceed 38cm above ground level when the vehicle is unladen. It should be fitted with non-slip high visibility (yellow) markings. These markings should be secure at all times and must not present a trip hazard.
- d) Holds or handles to aid passenger access or egress should be clearly identified with high visibility (yellow) markings.

14. Canopy or roof

- a) Any canopy or roof, when fitted, must remain fixed in position until required to be raised or lowered. This should be achieved by means of a locking mechanism to secure the canopy or roof in the raised or lowered position as required.
- b) Visibility from the passenger compartment must not be restricted by the design of the pedicab. If the canopy or roof restricts vision then it must incorporate a clear panel to the rear no smaller than 600mm wide by 200mm high. If vision is restricted

¹ The minimum requirements for brakes are set by regulation 7 of the Pedal Cycle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1983. This section requires two independent braking systems front and rear.

to the sides then clear panels, not less than 200mm square, should be incorporated in the sides. Any canopy or curtain to the front must be predominantly clear.

c) Where the design of the canopy or roof does not allow for windows or clear panels of this size then consideration will be given to a specific exemption by the Head of Vehicle Inspections and Standards.

15. Passenger Seating

a) The rear seat dimensions must be adequate to accommodate one or two adult passengers, based on a width of 450mm per passenger. Passenger seating must be forward facing.

b) Every pedicab presented for licensing must be fitted with seatbelts which are adequate to retain the passenger in the vehicle and which bear an EC or BSI mark.

16. Rider's area and controls.

a) The rider's controls and surrounding area must be so designed that the rider has adequate room, can easily reach and quickly operate the controls and give hand signals when required.

b) The position of the rider's seat must not be such that it restricts access or egress to the passenger compartment.

17. Fare chart, certificate of insurance and small identification plate

The fare chart (if required), certificate of insurance and interior identification plate must be displayed within the view of passengers and should remain static when the canopy or roof is raised or lowered.

18. Floor covering

The flooring of the passenger compartment must be of a non-slip material which can be easily cleaned.

19. Audible warning device

Pedicabs will be required to have a warning bell fitted complying with the requirements of the Consumer Protection, Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations 2003.

20. Maintenance

Pedicabs and all their fittings, advertisements etc. must be maintained to standards that meet these Conditions of Fitness for pedicabs throughout the validity of the licence. The vehicle must be kept clean and in good order at all times.

Pedicabs will at all times be subject to test and inspection and, should it be found that a vehicle is not properly maintained or in good working order, a notice will be served on the owner prohibiting its use until the defect has been rectified and the vehicle has been re-inspected.

Part 3 Directions

21. Advertisements

a) Suitable advertisements may be allowed on the exterior or interior of pedicabs subject to the approval of the Licensing Authority. All materials used in the

manufacture of, and for the purpose of fixing, advertisements to the pedicab must be approved.

b) Advertisements will not be approved for use unless they comply with the Consolidated Guidelines for advertising on licensed London taxis.

22. Badges/Emblems

a) In addition to advertisements displayed in accordance with the previous paragraph, vehicles may display the official badge or emblem of organisations which provide emergency vehicle repair and/or recovery services or membership of which indicates that the rider possesses professional skills/qualifications which enhance the pedicab service provided to the public.

b) Badges may be affixed to the front of the vehicle only and in such a manner as not to be detrimental to the operation of the vehicle, or likely to cause injury to any person, or to detract from any authorised sign which the vehicle may be required to display.

c) No advertisement, badge or emblem, including the stick-on type is to be exhibited other than as provided for in the directions contained in these paragraphs.

23. Additional advisory features not forming part of inspection

Passenger compartmental

a) The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor in the passenger compartment and the underside of any canopy or roof (when locked in the raised position) should be not less than 1.3 metres.

b) The materials used to form the passenger seat should be waterproof so that they will not absorb or retain water. Seats must be constructed of a suitable fire resistant material to BS 5852 part 1 1979 or equivalent.