PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. Qualifying Proprietors

The applicant must:

- Hold a Single Status Driver's Licence issued by the Council.
- Be the proprietor of the vehicle which is the subject of the application.

The word "proprietor" includes a part proprietor and, in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hiring agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle which is under that agreement.

2. Qualifying Vehicles

2.1 To qualify for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence the vehicle must:

Saloon and estate vehicles

2.1.1 be a saloon or estate vehicle with the following characteristics –

- Under **seven** years old. (This may be extended to eight years if the vehicle has had a good maintenance record for at least two years prior to the application and has been licensed by the Council during that period)
- 4/5 doors
- minimum engine capacity rated at 1600 cc or 1500 cc multi-valve
- minimum boot space (in the case of an estate, minimum useable luggage space) 353 litres (12.5 cubic feet)
- minimum knee room spacing (the distance between the front surface of all seat backs and the back(s) in front): 650mm (25.61")
- Minimum foot space (the clear space in front of the seat): 300mm long, 250mm wide and 80mm high (11.82" x 9.85" x 3.15")
- minimum rear cabin width: 1346mm (53")
- painted any colour **other than** manufacturer's black **or**

MPV style vehicles

2.1.2 be a MPV style vehicle with the following characteristics;

- full M1 type approval or Small Volume Production Certificate
- painted any colour **other than** manufacturer's black
- minimum engine capacity rated at 1600 cc or 1500 cc multi-valve
- wheelchair compatible
- minimum useable luggage space 353 litres (12.5 cubic feet)
- approved seat configuration **or**

Other types of vehicle

2.1.3 be any other type of vehicle, such as a limousine, which may be approved by the Council from time to time subject to any special requirements deemed appropriate to such vehicle

2.2 The maximum number of passengers which may be carried by any vehicle shall be determined by the Council.

3. Fittings applicable to saloons and estate vehicles and MVP style vehicles

3.1 Unless otherwise approved the vehicle must be fitted with an approved permanent **mounting bracket** which must be positioned externally on the rear off-side of the vehicle in an upright position above or below the bumper bar where it is clearly visible and not obstructing lights or indicators;
3.2 The vehicle must **not** be fitted with any **roof sign and/or mounting**
3.3 The vehicle must **not** be fitted with any **"For Hire" sign.**

4. Vehicle testing

4.1 Prior to the issue of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence all vehicles other than brand new vehicles will be tested to ascertain their condition. Brand new vehicles will be checked to establish compliance with taximeter (and its sealing), signs, fire extinguishers and seat belts requirements only .
4.2 All vehicles three years old and over will be subject to automatic six-monthly testing.
4.3 Vehicle tests and checks will take place at the Council's Vehicle Testing Facility at Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes. On passing the annual test a Certificate of Compliance will be issued by the tester in lieu of an MOT Certificate.
4.4 Vehicle test fees are payable in accordance with the Council's current scale of charges.
4.5 Arrangements for vehicle testing are entirely the responsibility of the licence holder and in particular, the dates and times of six-monthly tests shall be arranged at each preceding annual test between the licence holder and the Council's Vehicle Testers. No further reminders will be issued by the Council's Legal Services Division.

5. Taximeters

Any taximeter fitted to a Private Hire Vehicle must be tested and approved by the Council and shall be fitted in a position approved by the Council. A taximeter shall be deemed to be approved if it bears the EU Pattern Approval Sign or the EU Partial Initial Verification Mark. In other cases specific approval will be required form the Council. Not later than 2002 all taximeters shall be 'calendar' type. Taximeters must not be used unless sealed by the Council.

6. Display of items supplied by the Council

The following items will be supplied by the Council and must be permanently displayed in an approved manner:

- Licence plate

- A licence disc
- An interior licence number plate

7. Display of insurance certificate

A current insurance certificate must be displayed within the vehicle in a position approved by the Council.

8. Fire extinguishers

A fire extinguisher shall be maintained within the vehicle in a position approved by the Council. The extinguisher shall comply with BSEN3 1996, bear a K mark and licence number and have a gage. The extinguisher shall be subject to annual test by a qualified tester and the test certificate shall be produced to the Council when the vehicle tested by the Council.

9. Maintenance of the Vehicle

The holder of this licence shall ensure that the Private Hire Vehicle shall be maintained in a sound mechanical and structural condition at all times and be capable of satisfying the Council's mechanical and structural inspection at any time during the continuance of the vehicle licence.

10. Mechanical and Structural alterations to the Vehicle

The holder of this licence shall not allow the mechanical and structural specifications of the Private Hire Vehicle to be varied without the written consent of the Council Solicitor. No equipment or object shall be placed above the dashboard in a position contrary to the relevant test regulations

11. Signs and Advertisements

No signs or advertisements shall be displayed on any Private Hire Vehicle except that:

1. A sign on adhesive plastic of a size colour design and wording approved by the Council Solicitor shall be permitted to be positioned on either or both front doors indicating that the vehicle is a licensed private hire vehicle; and
2. A one line advertisement shall be permitted on the rear windscreen (top or bottom so as not to interfere with rear visibility), provided that letters within the advertisement shall not exceed 5.08 cm (two inches) in height and provided that the advertisement shall only contain a telephone number and the identity of the system.

12. Duration of Licences

Subject to the relevant age limit of the vehicle not being exceeded a vehicle licence will be issued for a maximum period of twelve months.

13. Notification of transfer

The holder of this licence shall notify the Council in writing within fourteen days of any transfer of the interest in the vehicle.

14. Notification of damage to the Vehicle

The holder of this licence shall report to the Council within 72 hours of the occurrence thereof any damage to the vehicle (whether involving an accident or otherwise).

15. Notification of change of address

The holder of this licence shall give notice in writing to the Council Solicitor on any change of address during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.

16. Notification of convictions

The holder of this licence shall immediately disclose to the Council Solicitor in writing details of any convictions imposed on him or her during the currency of this licence (including fixed penalty ticket offences).

17. Retention of Single Status Drivers Licences

The holder of this licence shall retain the Single Status Drivers Licence of all drivers using the vehicle and produce the same to an authorised Officer of the Council or Constable on request.

18. Copy Insurance certificates to system operators

The holder of this licence shall ensure that any user of the vehicle submits a copy of the Certificate of Insurance to the operator of the radio system from which the user of the vehicle is working.

19. Security Cameras in vehicles

Security cameras in the vehicle shall be permitted provided that:

1. the existence of the camera is clearly indicated by a notice displayed on the passenger window; and
2. images obtained from the security cameras shall not be used for commercial purposes or in contravention of data protection legislation.

20. General Condition

All relevant material incorporated in the Council's Taxi User Guide and web site and updates and changes made thereto from time to time shall be deemed to be included within these conditions.

21. Compliance with legislation

This licence is issued subject to compliance with the current Hackney Carriage By-laws, and relevant provisions in the Town, Police Clauses Act 1847, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Transport Act 1985.

22. Suspension, revocation and refusal to renew licence

The Council may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew this licence on any of the following grounds:-

22.1. Any offence under or non-compliance with the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 or Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, by a driver:

22.2 Any other reasonable cause.

23. Offences

Any person who:
23.1 Wilfully obstructs and authorised Officer or Constable acting in pursuance of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, or the Town Police Clauses Act 1847;
23.2 Fails to comply with any requirement properly made to him by such an Officer or Constable;
23.3 Without reasonable cause fails to give such an Officer or Constable any other assistance or information which he may require for performance of his functions
shall be guilty of an offence

24. Non-compliance with conditions

Failure to comply with any of the conditions attached to this licence may result in prosecution.

25. Discretion of the Council

The Council reserves the right to exercise its discretion at any time in connection with any of these conditions.