

Vale of Glamorgan Council Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles

1. The proprietor shall at all times comply with the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the conditions hereinafter provided.

Definitions

2. In these conditions the following definitions, as defined in section 80 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976, apply:
 - (a) 'Authorised officer' means any officer of a district council authorised in writing by the council for the purposes of this Part of this Act.
 - (b) 'Licensing Authority' means Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority.
 - (c) 'The Council' means the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
 - (d) 'The proprietor' includes a part-proprietor and, in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hiring agreement or hire-purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle under that agreement.
 - (e) 'Operate' means in the course of a business to make provision for the invitation or acceptance of bookings for a private hire vehicle.
 - (f) 'taximeter' means any device for calculating the fare to be charged in respect of any journey in a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle by reference to the distance travelled or time elapsed since the start of the journey, or a combination of both.
 - (g) 'Vehicle' means a private hire vehicle which means a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to seat fewer than nine passengers, other than a hackney carriage or public service vehicle or a London cab or tramcar which is provided for hire with the services of a driver for the purposes of carrying passengers.

Type of Vehicle

3. The vehicle shall be suitable in type and design for use as a private hire vehicle. Any dispute to be decided by the Licensing Authority.
4. The vehicle shall not be white with a black bonnet. Any vehicle with a licence granted from January 2009 shall not be white, with the exception of minibus type vehicles, which may be white.
5. The vehicle shall be kept in good repair and condition at all times to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.

Window Licence and Licence Plate

6. The licence identification plate shall remain the property of the Licensing Authority at all times and shall be returned to the Licensing Authority on the revocation, suspension or non-renewal or if the vehicle is destroyed or ceases to be used for private hire purposes.

7. The proprietor and/or driver shall at all times ensure that there shall be clearly displayed on the left hand side of the windscreen of the vehicle in such a position that it can be easily seen from the front of the vehicle the window licence issued by the Licensing Authority indicating that the vehicle is a licensed private hire vehicle.
8. The licence identification plate must be permanently affixed to the outer rear of the vehicle's bodywork or to the rear bumper with the fixing kit supplied by the Licensing Authority at the proprietor's own expense. The licence plate must be clearly visible to the driver of a following vehicle and must not obscure the registration plate of the vehicle.
9. The proprietor and/or driver shall at all times ensure that there shall be clearly displayed on the centre or upper part of each front door of the vehicle, the adhesive private hire identification sticker supplied by the Licensing Authority. The stickers must be permanently fixed to each door with the identification sticker's adhesive backing.
10. The door stickers shall not be altered or defaced in any way.

Maximum number of passengers

11. The number of passengers to be carried in the vehicle at any one time shall not exceed the maximum permitted number as specified by the Licensing Authority

Condition of the vehicle

12. The interior and exterior of the vehicle shall be kept clean and maintained fit for public service to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority at all times.

Specification of vehicle

13. The vehicle must comply with the following requirements
 - (a) **Construction** - The vehicle must be constructed and maintained so as to be safe and comfortable and have doors of such width and which open sufficiently to allow easy access into and out of the vehicle. All vehicles shall be fitted with a right hand drive and four doors with the exception of the minibus type of vehicle, which should have a minimum of two doors provided for the exclusive use of passengers. Minibus type vehicles with one door for the exclusive use of passengers must have the door on the nearside of the vehicle. All doors will have an interior release handle.
 - (b) **Access and Egress** – Access and egress to and from the rear most seats in multi person vehicles should be clear and unobstructed where possible. In those vehicles where seats must be moved to allow passengers to vacate the rear most seats, the seats must be maintained to the highest standard to ensure the easy and immediate egress of passengers in an emergency.

- (c) **Height (inside)** - The height above the front and rear seats of the vehicle measured from the top of the seat cushions to the roof must be of a suitable distance to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (d) **Knee space** - The distance between the rear of the front seats and the front edge must be to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority. Front seats must have a suitable amount of knee space which must be to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (e) **Seats** – Must not be sideways facing to the direction of travel and all will comply with seatbelt regulations.
- (f) **Front Seat** – The length of the front seat measured along the centre of the seat must be to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority. The width of the front seat from the back to the front edge must be to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (g) **Seats (width)** - The width of the rear seat from the back to the front edge must be to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (h) **Rear seat (length)** - The length of the rear seat measured along the centre of the seat must be to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (i) **Body shell/structure** - Including doors, panels, wings bumpers to be in good condition, free from rust, holes, broken metal or any other visible damage to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (j) **Paint work** - To be one uniform colour and in good condition to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (k) **Seat coverings** - To be in good condition, clean and free from any tears, damage, grease or any other contamination to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (l) **Floor coverings** - To be in good condition, clean and free from any contamination to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (m) **Interior trim** - To be in good condition, clean and free from any tears, damage, grease or any other contamination to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (n) **Door hinges and locks** - To be in good order all working, and doors to be seated correctly when closed.
- (o) **Windscreen and windows** - To be in good clean condition to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.
- (p) **Oil leaks** - Engine to be free from oil leaks.
- (q) **Under seal** - Shall not extend beyond the upper limit of the sill on any vehicle unless applied as part of the original manufacturing process.

Spare wheel, brace and jack

14. Each vehicle is to carry a spare wheel and tyre, jack and brace, or a suitable puncture repair kit. Any spare wheel and tyre should be in good condition and must not be carried free in the boot or luggage compartment. The spare wheel and tyre should be carried in the well or compartment provided and be fastened down securely to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority, so as not to cause a potential hazard to passengers.

Boot or luggage compartment

15. Vehicles shall have adequate space for luggage, which shall either be in the form of a separate luggage compartment or an area where luggage can be properly restrained in the event of an accident or emergency stop.

Interior and exterior fittings

16. No fittings or signs to be attached inside or outside vehicles unless approved by the Licensing Authority.
17. The proprietor shall in a multi passenger vehicle display appropriate notices indicating to passengers how best to leave the vehicle in the case of an emergency including how to lower seat backs or move seats if necessary.
18. The vehicle must not be fitted with a roof sign.

Trailers

19. Trailers may not be used in conjunction with a private hire vehicle without the prior written approval of the Licensing Authority.
20. Any trailer used for the conveyance of luggage shall be submitted for testing at the same time as the vehicle.
21. The trailer shall be fully covered for protection against wind and rain penetration and secured for the protection of the luggage carried.
22. The trailer must be covered by a policy of insurance.
23. The trailer must display a duplicate number plate and private hire plate to the rear supplied by the Licensing Authority at the proprietor's own expense.
24. The trailer shall be of an approved type indicating unladen weight, gross weight, manufacturer's details and that the trailer is suitably braked.
25. Where a trailer is attached to a vehicle for the conveyance of luggage or any other reason the proprietor shall ensure that the driver's DVLA licence covers the towing of trailers.

Signage

26. No signs, notices or advertisements shall be displayed in, on or from the vehicle unless first approved in writing by the Licensing Authority.
27. Only approved company logos may be used.
28. The approved logo together with the company telephone number(s) may only be displayed on the rear passenger doors of the vehicle. An additional logo may be

fitted to the bonnet of the vehicle provided it is painted or firmly affixed to the bonnet (but cannot be used alone).

29. Any commercial advertising shall not be offensive or untruthful and shall comply with the Advertising Standards Code of Practice.

30. No application for commercial advertising shall be considered by the officer unless a detailed drawing of the advert is submitted.

31. Any permitted commercial advertising shall only be displayed on the area behind the rear passenger doors but not on any window of the vehicle.

Alterations

32. No alteration or change to the vehicle shall be made without the approval of the Licensing Authority at any time.

Inspections

33. The vehicle shall be presented for examination on application for a renewal of the licence. The vehicle shall also be presented for examination at such other times and at such places as required by the Licensing Authority. Vehicles will be accepted for testing up to ten working days prior to and including the exact date on which the test is required. This condition is without prejudice to the powers in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Transfers

34. Within 14 days of the transfer of the vehicle to another person or persons the Licensing Authority shall be furnished in writing with the name(s) and address(es) of the transferee(s).

35. The licence holder shall surrender the window licence of the vehicle being transferred at the time when the transfer application is submitted.

Accidents

36. Any accident involving the vehicle shall be reported to the Licensing Authority as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within seventy two hours of the occurrence thereof.

Scanners/CB radios

37. A frequency scanner or CB radio shall not be fitted into or carried within any vehicle.

CCTV

38. CCTV, including digital stills equipment may be installed in a licensed vehicle subject to the following provisions

- (a) Approval in writing must be obtained from the Licensing Authority before CCTV equipment is installed and used in the vehicle;
- (b) Any material recorded on the equipment shall be used only as evidence in court proceedings or to aid investigation of a crime or to confirm or rebut complaints made against a driver;
- (c) Material captured by the system shall be accessible only to the police and authorised council officers.
- (d) Recorded material must be made available upon demand to the police and a duly authorised officer of the council;
- (e) Notices indicating that the CCTV system is in operation in the vehicle shall be clearly displayed on passenger windows visible from the outside of the vehicle. The notices shall state "CCTV OPERATES IN THIS VEHICLE".
- (f) Each system must be registered with the offices of the Data Protection Registrar with proof of registration supplied to the Licensing Department.
- (g) Each system must be operated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Wheelchair access

- 39. If the vehicle is designed or adapted to carry a wheelchair, the proprietor shall ensure that the driver has received appropriate training to load and convey wheelchair bound passengers.
- 40. Any equipment fitted to the vehicle for the purpose of lifting a wheelchair into the vehicle must have been tested in accordance with the requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/2307). A certificate issued in respect of the lifting equipment must be produced on request by an authorised officer. Any such equipment must be maintained in good working order and be available for use at all times.

Animals

- 41. Guide dogs, hearing dogs or other assistance dogs must be carried and allowed to remain with the passenger for the duration of the journey, unless the driver has a medical exemption certificate.

Change of particulars

- 42. The proprietor must inform the Licensing Authority in writing of any change of address during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.
- 43. The proprietor of the vehicle shall notify the Licensing Authority immediately if the place at which the vehicle is normally kept, when not in use, is changed.

Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)

- 44. The proprietor must produce a safety certificate on installation of LPG and annually thereafter. This must be issued by an installer who must be approved by the Liquid Gas Petroleum Gas Association and produced to the Licensing Section on application.

45. The proprietor must produce a safety certificate when the Licensing Officer or authorised tester at the Alps Garage is not satisfied that the LPG system remains safe. This will be at the expense of the proprietor, and must be produced within two weeks following the request.
46. The proprietor must provide proof, in writing to the Licensing Section that the vehicle insurers are aware of the installation of LPG to the vehicle.