



## Proposed Vale of Glamorgan conditions for hackney carriage vehicles

1. The proprietor shall at all times comply with the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847, the Council's byelaws for the time in force 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) 'the Council' means the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
  - (c) '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.
  - (d) '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.
  - (e) 'vehicle' means a hackney carriage vehicle as defined by section 38 of the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847, which is *"every wheeled carriage, whatever may be its form or construction, used in standing or plying for hire in any street within the prescribed distance, and every carriage standing upon any street within the prescribed distance, having thereon any numbered plate required by this or the special Act to be fixed upon a hackney carriage, or having thereon any plate resembling or intended to resemble any such plate as aforesaid, shall be deemed to be a hackney carriage within the meaning of this Act; and in all proceedings at law or otherwise the term 'hackney carriage' shall be sufficient to describe any such carriage."*

### **Type of Vehicle**

3. The vehicle shall be suitable in type and design for use as a hackney carriage vehicle. Any dispute to be decided by the Council as Licensing Authority.
4. With the exception of London style taxis, which shall be all black, all vehicles shall be white with a black bonnet. No alteration shall be made to the colour of the vehicle without the prior written approval of the Council.
5. The vehicle shall be kept in good repair and condition at all times to the satisfaction of the Council.
6. The interior and exterior of the vehicle (including the windows, signs, advertisements and fittings) shall be kept clean and maintained fit for public service at all times.

### **Window Licence and Licence Plate**

7. The vehicle licence plate or disc shall remain the property of the Council and shall be returned to the Council on the revocation, suspension or non-renewal of this licence or if the vehicle is destroyed or ceases to be used as a hackney carriage.
8. The proprietor 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 Council indicating that the vehicle is licensed as a hackney carriage.
9. The licence plate must be permanently affixed to the rear of the vehicle's bodywork or to the rear bumper with the fixing kit supplied by the Council at the proprietor's own expense. The identification plate must be clearly visible to the driver of a following vehicle and must not obscure the registration plate of the vehicle.
10. The proprietor and/or driver shall at all times ensure that there shall be clearly displayed on the upper part of each front door of the vehicle the adhesive hackney carriage identification sticker supplied by the council permanently fixed to each door with the identification sticker's adhesive backing.
11. The door stickers shall not be altered or defaced in any way.

## **Maximum number of passengers**

12. 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.

## **Roof Sign**

13. All vehicles (except the London type taxis) shall be fitted with an illuminated roof sign of a design approved in writing by the Council indicating on the front of the sign in black letters of the same type and size either "TAXI FOR HIRE" or "FOR HIRE" and the words "Vale of Glamorgan" together with the licence number to the rear and be capable of indicating clearly to persons outside the vehicle whether or not the vehicle is for hire.
14. All illuminated signs shall be connected to the taxi meter and operate so that the sign light is extinguished when the meter is in operation.
15. The vehicle shall be fitted with a switch on or near the dashboard to enable the driver of the vehicle to extinguish the sign light when the vehicle is not plying for hire.

## **The Meter**

16. The meter fitted to all hackney carriage vehicles shall be calibrated to include only Vale of Glamorgan Council tariffs applicable to the number of passengers permitted in that vehicle.

## **Fare Table**

17. The Proprietor shall ensure that a fare table is displayed in the licensed vehicle at all times and that the fare table is not concealed from view or rendered illegible while the vehicle is being used for hire. The fare table must not be displayed on a window.

## **Specification of vehicle**

18. 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 must be clear and unobstructed.
- (c) **Height (inside)** - The height above the front and rear seats of the vehicle must not be less than 32 inches (812mm) measured from the top of the seat cushions to the roof.
- (d) **Knee space** - The distance between the rear of the front seats and the front edge must not be less than 8 inches (203.2mm). All front seats must have the minimum knee space of 8 inches over the full width of the seat.
- (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 not be less than 16 inches (406.4 mm). The width of the front seat from the back to the front edge must not be less than 18 inches (457mm).
- (g) **Seats (width)** - The width of the rear seat from the back to the front edge must not be less than 18 inches (457mm).
- (h) **Rear seat (length)** - The length of the rear seat measured along the centre of the seat must be at least 16 inches (406.4mm) per person.
- (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 Council.
- (j) **Seat coverings** - To be in good condition, clean and free from any tears, damage, grease or any other contamination to the satisfaction of the Council.
- (k) **Floor coverings** - To be in good condition, clean and free from any contamination to the satisfaction of the Council.
- (l) **Interior trim** - To be in good condition, clean and free from any tears, damage, grease or any other contamination to the satisfaction of the Council.
- (m) **Door hinges and locks** - To be in good order all working, and doors to be seated correctly when closed.
- (n) **Windscreen and windows** - To be in good clean condition to the satisfaction of the Council.
- (o) **Oil leaks** - Engine to be free from oil leaks.
- (p) **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**

19. Each vehicle is to carry a spare wheel, jack and brace to be in good condition and to be carried in an easily accessible position on all vehicles, or an alternative arrangement regarding the replacement of wheels should first be submitted to the Council in writing and accepted and approved by the Council. Spare wheels must not be carried free in the boot or luggage compartment. Any spare wheel must be fastened down securely to the satisfaction of the Council, so as not to cause a potential hazard to any passengers.

## **Boot or luggage compartment**

20. To be clean and free for the accommodation of passenger's luggage. Where the hackney carriage vehicle is an estate vehicle it must have a metal luggage guard permanently fitted between the luggage and passenger compartments and must have council approval prior to use. Any items carried in the boot or luggage compartment must be secured.

## **Interior and exterior fittings**

21. No fittings or signs to be attached inside or outside vehicles unless approved by the Council.
22. 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.

## **Trailers**

23. Trailers may not be used in conjunction with a hackney carriage vehicle without the prior written approval of the Council.
24. Any trailer used for the conveyance of luggage shall be submitted for testing at the same time as the vehicle.
25. The trailer shall be fully covered for protection against wind and rain penetration and secured for the protection of the luggage carried.
26. The trailer must be covered by a policy of insurance.
27. The trailer must display a duplicate number plate and private hire plate to the rear.
28. The trailer shall be of an approved type indicating unladen weight, gross weight, manufacturer's details and that the trailer is suitably braked.

## **Signage**

29. No signs, notices or advertisements shall be displayed in, on or from the vehicle unless first approved in writing by the Council.
30. Only approved company logos may be used.
31. 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).

32. Any commercial advertising shall not be offensive or untruthful and shall comply with the Advertising Standards Code of Practice.
33. No application for commercial advertising shall be considered by the officer unless a detailed drawing of the advert is submitted.
34. Any permitted commercial advertising shall only be displayed on the area behind the rear passenger doors but not on any window of the vehicle.
35. The proprietor shall cause to be clearly marked and maintained inside the vehicle and in such a position as to be clearly visible at all times to persons conveyed therein: -
  - (a) The name of the company and address of the Licensing Authority to which complaints may be directed.
  - (b) The number of the vehicle licence.
  - (c) The number of passengers prescribed in the vehicle licence.

### **Alterations**

36. No alteration or change to the vehicle shall be made without the approval of the Council at any time.

### **Inspections**

37. 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 Council. 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**

38. Within 14 days of the transfer of the vehicle to another person or persons the Council shall be furnished in writing with the name(s) and address(es) of the transferee(s).
39. The licence holder shall surrender the window licence of the vehicle being transferred at the time when the transfer application is submitted.

### **Accidents**

40. Any accident shall be reported to the Council as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within seventy two hours of the occurrence thereof.

## **Scanners/CB radios**

41. A frequency scanner shall not be fitted into or carried within any vehicle. If a citizens band radio is fitted or carried within a vehicle, it must be licensed and must not be used when carrying passengers except in an emergency.

## **CCTV**

42. 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 Council 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**

43. 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.
44. 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**

45. Guide dogs, hearing dogs or other assistance dogs must be carried unless the driver has a medical exemption certificate.

### **Change of particulars**

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