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HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE – PRE-LICENSING CONDITIONS

- 1.0 In order that a reliable hackney carriage or private hire service of an acceptable standard is provided within the Borough, a person to be considered for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence on the first or subsequent occasions shall:-
- 1.1 have a vehicle which is in satisfactory mechanical order and body condition and in operational order in every respect, having regard to the requirements of Schedule 2 to these Conditions
 - 1.1.1 In addition, any vehicle first used before 1.4.1987 must be fitted with rear seat belts as if that vehicle was first used on or after that Date.
 - 1.2 have a vehicle which is a saloon, a minibus, a hatchback, an estate motor car (or hackney carriage only a London type cab) Which according to the manufacturers unaltered specifications has:-
 - 1.2.1 seats with a minimum width of not less than 16 inches (40.64cm) per person
 - 1.2.2 separate front seats to accommodate one person in addition to the driver, save in the case of limousines and vintage cars which May have a bench seat separated by an arm (and in respect of purpose-built hackney carriages not fitted with a front passenger Seat.
 - 1.2.3 an internal height of not less than 44 inches (111.76cm)
 - 1.2.4 not less than 11 inches (28cm) clearance between the forward edge of the front seat and the instrument panel or any other Part of the vehicle
 - 1.2.5 not less than 10 inches (25.4cm) clearance between the forward edge of the seats and any other seats
 - 1.2.6 doors which have a minimum rear opening of 37 inches (93.98cm)
 - 1.2.7 accommodation for not less than four passengers
 - 1.2.8 in the case of a standard saloon, hatchback or estate car with two rows of forward facing seats, a minimum of four doors, Each adjacent to and allowing direct access to and from seats and rear seat accommodation for not less than three passengers.
 - 1.2.9 in the case of an estate car with three rows of forward facing seats, a minimum of five doors, four of which are adjacent to and allowing direct access to the front two rows of seats. The rear row of seats may be accessed by moving one or more of the Second row of seats (see Note 1).
 - 1.2.10 in the case of a limousine, a minimum of four doors. Seats may be accessed by moving one or more of the second row of seats.
 - 1.2.11 in the case of minibus, not less than two doors allowing access to the passenger seats, in addition to any provided for the driver.
 - 1.2.12 Hackney Carriage only been so constructed or adapted to afford wheelchair access or the front passenger seat so adapted as to afford easier access to a physically disabled person by means of a suitable purpose-built 90 degree swivel type seat arrangement. (see Note 2).
 - 1.3 satisfactorily complete an application form on which must be shown all cautions and convictions which by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 are deemed not to be spent.
 - 1.4 in the case of first application only, produce two satisfactory written references as to character from persons to whom the applicant shall Have been recently known for a minimum period of two years (See Note 3).
- 2.0 Veteran and vintage cars and minibuses.
- 2.1 Nothing in condition 1.2 shall prevent the licensing of veteran and vintage cars. However such cars shall be subject to the same Conditions as all other vehicles, save that referred to in condition 1.2.12.
 - 2.2 Hackney Carriage in the case of a minibus where wheelchair accessibility is provided to the rear passenger compartment, access To that compartment shall be available from both sides of the vehicle.
Private Hire Vehicle in the case of limousines fitted with separate front seats, subject to the Environmental Health and Enforcement Manager being satisfied with submitted evidence that the vehicle is to be used to provide limousine services exclusively, a Certificate of exemption from Condition 1.2.12 may be provided upon application for same.
- 3.0 Reasonable accommodation shall be provided for the hirer's luggage. Vehicles not constructed with separate luggage accommodation Shall be provided with fixed fence or secure parcel shelf, so as to prevent the contents being dislodged into the passenger and driver Compartments (See Schedule 1).
- 4.0 The vehicle shall have a nominal engine capacity of not less than either 1600cc (petrol) or 1700cc (diesel).

- 5.0 the applicant shall submit the vehicle for mechanical and/or such other inspection as the Council may require, in compliance with Schedule 2 to these Conditions, unless an appropriate Inspection Certificate of the Council is valid when the licence is to be granted
- 5.1 save that when a vehicle is new and has no more than 500 miles recorded on the odometer it shall not require such certification until SIX calendar months after the vehicle is first registered subject to the Environmental Health and Enforcement Manager being satisfied That it is a suitable vehicle to be licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.
- 6.0 the applicant shall produce the following documents prior to the issue of the licence which must be current at the time the licence Commences:
- 6.1 an insurance certificate or cover note which expressly indicates "on risk" cover for public hire in the case of Hackney carriages and for Private hire vehicles private hire cover:
- 6.2 a Department of Transport Test Certificate where required by the Road Traffic Acts.
- 6.3 proof of proprietorship of the vehicle by means of a Bill of Sale OR hire purchase agreement OR lease agreement.
- 6.4 the Vehicle Registration Document showing the current owner's name and address. In case of a recently acquired vehicle the document Must be produced when returned from the DVLA, having been amended.
- 7.0 Hackney Carriage only the applicant shall be a Licensed Hackney Carriage Driver or Licensed Private hire Vehicle Driver and have been Engaged in such trade within the Borough for at least TWO years.

Note 1

Vehicles will not be licensed to carry more than the maximum number of adult passengers recommended to be carried in the vehicle according to the manufacturer's specification.

Note 2

Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Pre-Licensing Conditions 1.2.12 is not yet implemented.

Note 3

References from relations of the applicant will not be accepted as suitable

Note 4

All relevant information will be taken into account when consideration is given to an application for a Hackney Carriage Licence or Private Hire Vehicle Licence, and it may be that the standards and requirements are waived or varied or added to at the discretion of the Council.

Note 5

A licence will not be issued in the name of a company or partnership if any officer of that company or member of that partnership would be refused a licence to drive a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle by reason of convictions recorded against him.

Schedule 1 – Interpretation

In these conditions

"Council" means "Brentwood Borough Council"

"Borough" means "Brentwood Borough Council Administrative Area"

"Veteran" means "Manufactured prior to 31.12.1916"

"Vintage" means "Manufactured between 1.1.1917 and 31.12.1930"

"Inspection" means "An inspection of the vehicle covering those items set out in Schedule 2 to these conditions"

"Date of first registration" means "as stated on the Vehicle Registration Document"

"Fixed Fence" means "a substantial fence securely fixed in position" a loosely fitted dog guard held in place by rubber suction feet or spring apparatus is not acceptable

Hackney Carriage only "taxi roof sign" means "a sign stating the word TAXI which is a minimum of 20 inches in length and which is capable of being illuminated only when the vehicle is for hire" The words FOR HIRE may also be included upon such sign.

Schedule 2 – Vehicle Inspection

Damage - corrosion - cleanliness.

Ground Level Checks

Doors - Seating - Heating - Lighting - Floors - Carpets - Fare Charges Displayed - Luggage Arrangements - Licence Plate - Rear Bumper - Front Bumper - For Hire Device - Mirrors.

Cab Items

Horn - Panel Lights - Gauges - Interior Light Switch - Driving Seat - Mirror Setting - Fire Extinguisher - Seat Belts - Signage - Smoking Signage.

Other Items

Fold Away Seat - Drivers Safety Screen - Passenger Steps - Ramps - Estate Luggage Gu

Under-Bonnet Item

Wiring Security - Brake Pipes - Brake Flexible Hose - Oil & Fuel Leaks - Exhaust Flange and Manifold Security - Emission of Smoke - Operation of Bonnet - Battery Security.

Steering

Steering Column, Drop Arm, Box Security - Drag Link - Drag Link Ends - Steering Box/Rack, Oil Leaks and Condition - Track Rod, Play in Rod Ends - Steering Lock Stops.

No Fouling - Swivel Pins, Bushes, Thrusts - Stub Axles - Wheel Bearings - Idler Security Condition.

Under Vehicle

Coil Suspension/Spring - Suspension Bushes and Fulcrum Pins - Suspension Main Member, Bottom Pans - Shock Absorbers & Rubbers - Shock Absorbers Links and Arms - Broken/Displaced Leaves - Leaf Retailing Clip - Shackle Pins & Bushes - Hanger Brackets and Chassis Bracket - U Belts - Transmission - Exhaust System - Chassis - Engine Mountings - Body.

Brakes

Flexible Brake Hoses - Brake Fluid Leaks, including Master Cylinder - Footbrake Operation - Brake Meter Test - Pipe Condition - Cable/Rod/Pivots/Fulcrum & Pins - Handbrake, Rods, Cables, Shafts/Pivot/Compensation.

Wheels/Tyres

Hub Bearings - Wheels - Tyres - Spare Wheel.

Schedule 3

The fire extinguisher must be of a suitable type having the appropriate BS EN3 1996 approval with a minimum rating of 5A-34B.