



## Appendix M

### **Specifications for a Private Hire Vehicle**

1. East Staffordshire Borough Council may licence as a private hire vehicle, any vehicle suitable for carriage of up to and including eight passengers provided that it has European Whole Vehicle Certification (EWVTA) and such vehicle complies with the requirements as laid down in these vehicle specifications.

Such vehicles may, if the Council so require, be presented to the Vehicle Inspectorate or Council approved testing station for examination and receive from them a report indicating that the vehicle is fit for use as a private hire vehicle, prior to the issue of a licence plate from the Council. The fee for such a test, which shall be determined by the Council, shall be met by the vehicle owner, or such person presenting the vehicle for test.

2.
  - a All licensed vehicles must comply in all respects with the requirements of any Acts and Regulations relating to motor vehicles in force at the time of licensing. Including any conditions of licence issued by the Council.
  - b The vehicle must comply with the Council's current age policy and be able to meet the current vehicle emissions specification. The Council will not licence any new vehicle that since the date of first registration has been recorded by the DVLA as having sustained structural damage from a road traffic accident rendering it beyond economical repair (an insurance "write off"). This relates to Category S vehicles. This information can be found in Part 3 – special notes of the V5 registration certificate".

Upon renewal Category S Write Off Vehicles will no longer be licensed.

- c The vehicle must not be of such design or type as to lead the public to be confused with a hackney carriage. Additionally, all vehicles must have a category M1 classification, evidence must be produced to prove that the vehicle complies with M or M1 categories. Vehicles will only be licensed up to 7 years old, unless it is suitable to be considered as an “exceptional vehicle” and meets the criteria.
3. The vehicle must be of ‘manufacturers’ colour coding.
4. The body must be a fixed head type. A sunroof may be fitted at the time of manufacture.
5. The steering wheel and driving controls must be fitted to the off side of the vehicle and shall have been at the time of registration.
6.
  - a. All vehicles must have at least four doors, excluding any tailgate.
  - b. Estate and MPV type vehicles must be fitted with a grille or other manufacturer approved device, which prevents luggage entering the passenger compartment.
  - c. All vehicles should have a wheelbase of at least 96” (2.4384 metres).
  - d. The minimum engine capacity for each vehicle is 1200cc, provided the engine is at least 95 bhp or 125 ps or greater.
  - e. Dual fuel, hybrid and electric vehicles with the equivalent power will be considered on an individual basis on application.
  - f. From 1<sup>st</sup> April,2022 all licensed Private Hire Vehicles must be fitted with at least a Euro 4 compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a petrol engine (Euro 3 compliant engines or older will not be permitted) or a Euro 6 compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a diesel engine (Euro 5 compliant engines or older will not be permitted).

Applicants will be required to prove that the engine of the vehicle is suitable. Any vehicle with an engine older than the required euro emissions standard will NOT be licensed at the time of renewal of licence.
7.
  - a Windows must be provided at the sides and rear of the vehicle.
  - b Rear passenger door windows must be capable of being opened and closed.

- c No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the glass on any part of the vehicle. Tinted windows will only be permitted in accordance with the manufacturers or specialist coachbuilders specification and must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
  - d Vehicles with a third row of seats fitted at the rear of the vehicle must have ventilation windows available in the absence of an approved air conditioning system.
- 8.
- a Passenger doors must be capable of being readily opened from the inside and outside of the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism.
  - b. Approved central locking systems are permitted and must be in full working order. Double catches of approved types must be fitted to all doors.
  - c. The door to the offside of the vehicle fitted with sliding doors, must be capable of being opened **ONLY** in the case of an emergency, unless that vehicle has an illuminated sign, clearly visible by day and by night, mounted on the rear of the vehicle in such a position so as to be readily seen by following traffic, but not so as to obscure the driver's vision, indicating that the doors are opening. The sign must be automatically linked to the passenger doors in order that when either door handle is activated to open the door, the sign is illuminated. A warning notice must be affixed securely to the inside of the door so as to be easily seen, advising passengers to exercise caution when alighting from the vehicle.
9. Seating capacities:
- a Where separate seats for each person are provided: one person shall be counted for each separate seat.
  - b Where the vehicle is fitted with a continuous seat, one person shall be counted for each completed length of the seating area provided that the seat restraint belts are fitted for each seating position.
  - c All seats must be forward facing (with the exception of the fold down seats fitted onto the bulkhead of a purpose built vehicle) and adequate in size, shape and condition for passengers. The seats must be designed for use by an adult and have a three point seatbelt.

- d All vehicles must have a minimum length of rear seat of 122cm in order to accommodate 3 adult passengers comfortably. Vehicles, which do not comply with this requirement, will only be licensed to carry 3 passengers instead of 4.
  - e Licensed drivers must provide reasonable levels of mobility-assistance to the disabled passenger and will be obliged to carry the passenger's wheelchair, if the wheelchair user chooses to sit in a passenger seat during the journey.
10. A manufacturer's specified original heating and ventilation system must be fitted and fully operational for the driver and passengers.
  11. All body parts and trimmings that are manufacturers original equipment such as wheel trims, mirrors, bumpers, valances, fabrics, switches, internal and external door handles and locks must be fitted and must be well maintained , in good working order and in good condition.
  12. All tyres and wheels (including the spare) must meet the legal requirements as to suitability for use on the vehicle. Tyres must have a minimum tread depth as required by law. They must be kept in good order and at the correct pressures. A wheel brace and car jack to enable the effective change of a tyre and wheel must be carried. If a vehicle is equipped with a space saver spare tyre or similar emergency repair system, it may only be used to get the vehicle to a location for the tyre to be changed for a full sized tyre. It is not permitted to carry passengers using a space saver tyre.
  13. No luggage will be carried on the roof of a vehicle. No luggage will be carried within the passenger's compartment unless a grill/guard/cargo security screen is in place to partition the luggage space from the passengers.
  14. Vehicles commonly referred to as Euro taxis or Euro cabs or vehicles which could lead the public to believe that such a vehicle is a hackney carriage, will not be licensed as a private hire vehicle by the Council.
  15.
    - a. Any electronic communication equipment must be of an approved standard and type as required by regulation at the time of installation or test.
    - b. Radio TX aerials must be adequately affixed to the body of the vehicle, and if not permanently fixed must have a spring incorporated into the aerial between the magnet and the aerial so as to provide flexibility.

- c. Vehicles fitted with TX aerials whilst being used for the purpose of private hire, must, when presenting the vehicle for testing, have such items fixed in their normal working positions.
  - d. All registration marks must comply with the latest regulations.
  - e. No roof signs are permitted on PH vehicles, in order to distinguish PH vehicles and licensed taxis.
  - f. The licence number of the vehicle together with the number of persons that the vehicle is licensed to carry shall be permanently affixed and exhibited at all times on the outside of the vehicle in the form of the vehicle licence plate as issued by the Council i.e. on the front and rear of the vehicle.
  - g. Council approved door panels must be displayed at all times.
  - h. Any proprietor of a private hire vehicle licensed by East Staffordshire Borough Council may not display advertisements.
- 16.
- a. The vehicle including all fittings must be well maintained and kept clean.
  - b. The vehicle will at all times be subject to test and inspection and may if not properly maintained, or any part is found to be defective or missing, be served with a notice prohibiting the use of the vehicle until the defect has been remedied.
  - c. A set of spare lamps to allow replacement of the following on the vehicle, HEADLAMPS, REAR LAMPS, BRAKE LIGHTS, DIRECTIONAL INDICATORS and REVERSING LAMPS must be carried in the vehicle at all times. It shall only be necessary to carry one bulb for each type of external lamp. It shall also be a requirement that a spare fuse for each fuse rating shall be carried in the vehicle at all times.
  - d. A fire extinguisher with registration number of vehicle clearly written on the extinguisher shall be carried in the vehicle at all times.
  - e. A vehicle shall carry a suitable first aid kit for use in an emergency.
17. Video camera monitoring devices, for the purpose of assisting driver, or passenger safety, shall be permitted. If such devices are fitted within the vehicle, adequate signage must be displayed in the passenger compartment advising passengers that they are being monitored / recorded.

It will be the driver / proprietor's responsibility to comply with all aspects of the law regarding such surveillance equipment. Material captured by the system shall be accessible to the Police, authorised officers of the Council, or the CCTV Operator. The system should be of evidential quality, indicate the time and date and be retained for a period of 31 days if an incident has taken place.

18. Bio-diesel, bio fuel or LPG conversions will no longer be accepted as a way to meet the emissions policy. No further vehicles will be licensed that use LPG after the date this policy is adopted by the Council.