

## Private Hire Vehicle Specification

s.48 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

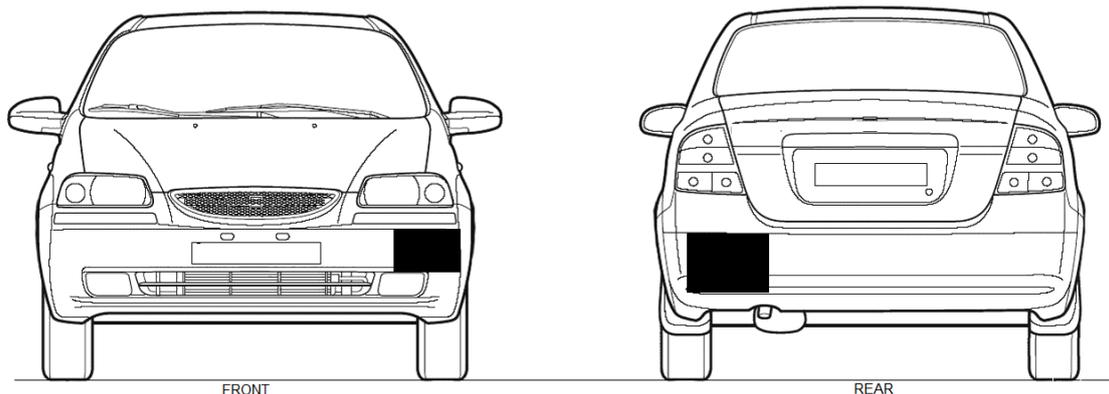
### General/Policy

1. All private hire vehicles must meet all relevant legislation and regulations, in particular the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and any subsequent amendment or re-enactment thereof and are safe and fit for purpose AND meet the following specification;
2. The vehicle must meet the criteria set out in the Council's Identification of Vehicles (Type / Signage) requirements.
3. The vehicle must display a notice detailing how passengers can make a complaint about the driver/vehicle to the Licensing Authority.
4. The vehicle must have no material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance from time of manufacture of that vehicle (without written approval of the Council).
5. If the vehicle was originally constructed to seat more than 8 passengers (excluding the driver) and that vehicle has been altered to seat eight or less passengers, the vehicle proprietor must notify the DVLA to [update the V5C registration certificate](#).
6. The (London Cab) and any purpose built taxi type of vehicle shall not be permitted.
7. The vehicle must have a forward mounted motor, having sufficient power to effectively carry out the requirement of a private hire vehicle.
8. The vehicle must not have sustained accident damage resulting in structural distortion beyond the accepted limits of the vehicle manufacturer, or, have been disposed of under an insurance salvage agreement under categories A or B. Vehicles having sustained damage and disposed of under an insurance salvage agreement as a category S (formerly C) or N (formerly D), may be considered for a licence providing the vehicle has been repaired to a roadworthy condition and passes the Councils vehicle test for licensing as a private hire or hackney carriage.
9. The vehicle must not have any other feature which may suggest to a person seeking to hire that the vehicle is a hackney carriage.
10. The vehicle must have provided and maintained at all times, safety equipment that will be, from time to time, specified by the Licensing Authority and detailed in the Private Hire Vehicle and Hackney Carriage examination and testing requirements
11. The Licensing Authority may, from time to time, make alterations to this specification to reflect changes in road vehicles regulations, manufacturing, and government guidance or conditions. Such changes will be notified as appropriate to proprietors.

12. In addition to the foregoing the proprietor / licensee is required to comply with statutory requirements and attention is drawn in particular to the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

## Exterior

13. Vehicles of any colour are permitted to be licensed as a private hire vehicle.
14. Roof signs of any form are not permitted on Private Hire Vehicles.
15. (a) Private hire vehicles must display approved magnetic/permanent signs which state the operator name and/or contact number of the vehicle operator.  
(b) Any signage is only permitted on the front and rear doors.  
(c) Vehicles currently licensed by the Council will have grandfather rights and there will be no requirement to remove any advertising [of the operator] which is already on the vehicle.  
(d) Advertising of external businesses is not permitted.  
The Council will consider requests in writing for the conditions (a) and/or (b) to be relaxed.
16. Private Hire vehicles shall display 2 pre-booked fares only signs, one on each passenger window. A minimum of one no smoking sign must also be displayed.
17. The vehicle must not have displayed on or from the vehicle any sign or notice, mark or illumination which consists of or includes the word 'taxi', 'for hire or 'cab' or leads a person to believe the vehicle is a hackney carriage.
18. The licence plates issued by the Council shall at all times be kept securely affixed to the exterior of the vehicle, one to the rear nearside and one to the front nearside in such a position and in such condition as to be readily visible and legible from the outside. Deviation from these positions must be approved, in writing by an authorised Council officer. Consideration will be given to allow for parking sensors, vehicle shape etc.



Licence plate positions

19. Wing mounted driving mirrors on both sides of the vehicle and an interior rear mirror shall be fitted and maintained.
20. No fittings, other than those fitted from time of manufacture of that vehicle, may be attached to or carried upon the interior or exterior of the vehicle, without written

approval of the Council. These include roof racks, roof mounted luggage containers, roof signs etc (this list is not exhaustive).

The use of aeriels for radio communication is permitted.

## **Interior**

21. The rear boot compartment must be adequate to carry luggage for each of the passengers which it is authorised to carry.

## **Doors**

22. The vehicle must have a minimum of 4 doors.
23. Door catches must be at all times be secure and yet capable of operation by passengers.

## **Seats**

24. The vehicle must have sufficient seating capacity to carry a minimum of 4 and not more than 8 passengers.
25. Not more than one passenger shall be accommodated in the front of the vehicle next to the driver and the seat for such passenger shall be an individual seat, not one used in common with the driver. Unless the vehicle is equipped with a factory fitted twin passenger seat. This seat must be separate from the driver's seat.
26. There must be sufficient space between the lowest part of the seat cushions and the lowest part of the roof to safely accommodate the driver and passengers in reasonable comfort. This must be at least 845mm (33 inches).
27. The minimum leg room available, to any passenger must be 200mm (8 inches). The measurement will be taken from the edge of the seat cushion to the rear of the seat/object in front. Where there is no seat/object in front the measurement will be taken from the base of the seat to the nearest obstruction in front.
28. Each seat must not be less than 406mm (16 inches) in width at its widest point.
29. Where bench seats are provided, then the seat must provide at its widest point a minimum of 406mm (16 inches) seating space for each passenger i.e. a bench seat must not be less than 1218 mm (48 inches) in order to accommodate 3 passengers.
30. **Seat Belts**  
All vehicles with not more than two rear seats are fitted with either:
  - (i) a 3 point inertia reel belt for each seat; or
  - (ii) a 3 point belt, lap belt, disabled person's belt or child restraint for each seat.All vehicles with more than two rear seats are fitted with either:
  - (i) a 3 point inertia reel belt on an outboard seat and a static or inertia reel belt, lap belt, disabled person's belt or child restraint for at least one seat; or
  - (ii) a static 3 point belt for one seat and a disabled person's belt or child restraint for at least one other seat; or
  - (iii) a 3 point belt, lap belt, disabled person's belt or child restraint for each seat.

## **Windows**

31. The Council shall refuse any vehicle submitted for licensing which is fitted with tinted windows to the rear of the driver, that are not factory fitted at the time of manufacture of the vehicle. Requests may be made in writing to the Council for additional tints to be added, following the manufacture of the vehicle.

## **Additional requirements for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles**

### **Wheelchair Facilities**

32. Suitable anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and chair bound disabled person. These anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked and be capable of withstanding stresses to a dynamic deceleration test of 15g peak at 20 m.p.h. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other. Anchorages must also be provided for the safe stowage of a wheelchair when not in use, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints must be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers.
33. The door and doorway must be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the doorway of at least 75 cm. The minimum angle of the door when opened must be 90 degrees.
34. The clear height of the doorway must be not less than 120 cm.
35. Grab handles must be placed at door entrances to assist the elderly and disabled.
36. The top of the tread for any entrance must be at floor level of the passenger compartment and must not exceed 38 cm above ground level when the vehicle is unladen. The outer edge of the floor at each entrance must be fitted with non-slip treads.
37. The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and the roof in the passenger compartment must be not less than 1.3 meters.
38. Where seats are placed facing each other, there must be a minimum space of 42.5 cm between any part of the front of a seat and any part of any other seat which faces it, provided adequate foot room is maintained at floor level. Where all seats are placed facing to the front of the vehicle, there must be a clear space of at least 66 cm in front of every part of each seat squab.
39. A ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be available at all times for use at the nearside rear or rear passenger door. An adequate locating device must be fitted to ensure that the ramp/ramps do not slip or tilt when in use. Provision must be made for the ramps to be stowed safely when not in use.