

Conditions attached to a Private Hire Vehicle Licence

1. Throughout these conditions “proprietor” includes a part-proprietor and, in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hiring agreement or a hire-purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle under that agreement.
2. In the event of the proprietor of a private hire vehicle changing his/her address he/she shall within 7 days give notice in writing to the Director of neighbourhoods and shall produce the vehicle licence at the office of the Director of neighbourhoods to enable details of the new address to be endorsed thereon.
3. The licence shall be in force only whilst the vehicle has a current valid Mechanical Test Certificate issued by Norwich City Council or their appointed agent.
4. The vehicle shall be kept in good order, the interior clean and the braking machinery efficient. There shall be an electric light fitted in the interior of the vehicle, in working order.
5. If any alteration is proposed to be made to any part of the vehicle the Director of neighbourhoods shall be notified and consent obtained before any such alteration is carried out.
6. A 1kg dry powder fire extinguisher with a fire rating of 5A/34B complying with BS EN:3 1996 shall be installed in the vehicle and in satisfactory working order at all times.
7. The floor of the vehicle shall be covered with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering.
8. The vehicle shall be equipped with a satisfactory arrangement for quickly replacing any punctured or damaged tyres and shall in any case carry a roadworthy spare wheel with fitted tyre.
9. The number of the licence shall be legibly marked:-
 - (i) inside the vehicle, on a card affixed to the vehicle, so as to be visible to passengers;
 - (ii) outside the vehicle on a yellow plate affixed vertically to the rear of the vehicle, on the opposite side to the exhaust and a reasonable distance above the ground.
10. There shall be displayed inside the vehicle a notice supplied by the Council stating to the effect that:-
 - (i) The vehicle is a private hire vehicle;
 - (ii) The vehicle may not be hailed in the street or boarded from a rank;
 - (iii) Fares cannot be controlled by the City Council and should be negotiated with the operator;
 - (iv) Any complaints should be referred to the City Council.

Excerpt from Norwich City Council Byelaws, Regulations and Conditions applicable to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Proprietors, Drivers and Operators

11. Signage identifying the vehicle is a Private Hire Vehicle, as approved by the Director of neighbourhoods, shall be displayed on both rear doors of the vehicle.
12. The vehicle shall contain sufficient means by which the passenger may communicate with the driver, a watertight roof or covering and a means of opening and closing the windows.
13. The seats shall be properly cushioned or covered, fittings and furniture shall be kept clean and adequate for the convenience of persons conveyed therein and a means shall be provided for securing luggage.
14. If the vehicle is equipped with a taximeter, the same and all fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the vehicle with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them, except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.
15. The vehicle may only be equipped with a taximeter of the type specified in the Council's Byelaws with respect to hackney carriages or such other type as may be approved by the Council from time to time.
16. Any sign or lettering displayed shall be non-illuminated and shall be confined to the nearside and offside front doors of the vehicle, and the words "taxi" or "cab" whether in the singular or plural or any word of similar meaning or appearance should not appear on any private hire vehicle even to denote the name of the firm concerned, except:
 - (a) as authorised by these conditions or any Act or Byelaw;
 - (b) a permanently fitted roof bar or permanently fitted roof sign with the wording "pre-booked only" back and front which must be clearly visible by day and night of a size and dimension approved by the Director of neighbourhoods.
17. On initial licensing the age of the vehicle shall not exceed 5 years, from date of first registration with the DVLA.
18. The vehicle shall not be more than 10 years old unless passed by the Director of neighbourhoods as in exceptionally good condition.
19. The vehicle shall not be less than 1400cc, except for hydrogen fuel cell, electric and hybrid vehicles.
20. The number of passengers carried in the vehicle shall not exceed such number as that for which the vehicle is licensed and the number of such passengers shall be clearly marked upon the licence plate.

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21. The seating capacity of the vehicle will be determined as follows:-
 - (a) where separate seats for each person are provided one person shall be counted for each separate seat provided; and
 - (b) where the vehicle is fitted with continuous seats one person shall counted for each complete length of 16 inches measured in a straight line lengthwise on the front of each seat and where such continuous seat is fitted with arms for the purpose of separating the seating spaces and such arms are so constructed that they can be folded back or otherwise put out of use such seat shall be measured for the purpose of this condition as if it had not been fitted with such arms.
22. Any vehicle conforming to the standard specification for Hackney Carriages as from 24th November 2009 shall not be used as a private hire vehicle.
23. The licence shall be revocable in the event of the Council being reasonably satisfied that a breach of any of the foregoing conditions has occurred and the licence holder may be liable to prosecution.
24. These conditions are in addition to the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

Summary of the main provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, concerning Private Hire Vehicles

- S.46 (1) (a) Vehicle to be licensed.
- S.48 (1) (a) Grant of vehicle licence – subject to provisions:-suitability, design, condition, comfortable, safe, etc.
- (2) Council may attach conditions.
- (5) Plate or disc to be issued.
- (6) Plate to be displayed as prescribed.
- S.49 (1) On proprietor's interest in vehicle being transferred to notify Council within 14 days.
- (2) Offence not to inform of transfer
- S.50 (1) Vehicle to be presented for inspection and testing on request by Council on not more than 3 occasions in any 1 year.
- (2) Requirement to inform Council where vehicle is kept when not in use.
- (3) Proprietor to report accident to vehicle within 72 hours.
- (4) Vehicle licence and insurance certificate to be produced on request.
- S.57 (1) Power to require applicants to submit information.
- S.58 (1) (a) Return of plate or disc on revocation, suspension or expiry of licence within 7 days after notice.
- (2) (b) Authorised officer entitled to remove plate and retain it.
- S.60 (1) Council may suspend or revoke or refuse to renew vehicle licence if vehicle unfit for use, non-compliance with Act by driver or operator or any other cause.
- (2) Within 14 days of above Council to give notice of grounds.
- S.68 Authorised officer or police constable may inspect and test vehicle and taximeter. Authorised officer or police constable may issue notice suspending licence if not satisfied.
- S.71 (1) Vehicle does not have to have taximeter, BUT where fitted must be tested and approved by the Council.
- S.73 (1) Offence to obstruct authorised officer or police constable or comply with his requirements.
- S.76 Penalty for offences – Fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
[£1000 at time of writing]

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