

Specifications for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Revised December 2025

1	General Construction		
	a	Every cab must comply in all respects with the requirements of any Acts and Regulations relating to motor vehicles in force at the time of licensing and comply with the Council's Supplementary Testing Manual.	
	b	The following vehicle types will be approved for licensing as Hackney Carriages:	
		1	Purpose-built Hackney Carriages, namely the LTI FX4, LTI TX1, TX2, TX4 and Metrocab.
		2	The Mercedes Eurocab, converted by Jubilee Automotive Group, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 31 October 2000.
		3	The Peugeot Eurotaxi, converted by Cab Direct, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 31 January 2001.
		4	The Volkswagen 'Unique Cab', converted by Bernard Mansell Ltd, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 30 June 2003.
		5	The Peugeot E7, converted by Cab Direct, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 26 July 2006.
		6	The Fiat TW200, converted by Patons Taxis/TW Automotive, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 13 February 2008.



		7	Jubilee Eurocab SX (with the exception of the turning circle requirement and the blanking off of the bulkhead aperture for the sliding door hinge behind the drivers head), converted by Jubilee Automotive Group, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 18 October 2006.	
		8	Fiat Scudo, converted by Gainmanor Scotcab, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 19 December 2007.	
		9	The Mercedes M8 converted by Cab Direct, provided that the taxi conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 1 July 2008.	
		10	The Mercedes Benz T1 Vito V6 120 CDI, renamed as V6 122 CDI (this vehicle is exempt from the current specification for the length of approved vehicles).	21 January 2016
		11	Mercedes Vito M8 C/DIR renamed as V6 122 CDI converted by Cab Direct provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 21 January 2016	21 January 2016
		12	Ford Pro Cab converted by Cab Direct Ltd provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 9 May 2017.	16 March 2021
		13	Mercedes-Benz Vito 114 CDI (Vito Taxi) converted by Penso City Vehicles Ltd provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 5 July 2018.	5 July 2018
		14	London Electric Vehicle Company Ltd (LEVC) TX electric taxi with range extender provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 27 June 2019 .	27 June 2019



		15	Ford Tourneo FX8 (Short wheel base only) converted by Voyager Multi Purpose Vehicle (MPV) Ltd provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 29 July 2019 .	29 July 2019
		16	Renault Traffic RX8 converted by Voyager Multi Purpose Vehicle (MPV) Ltd provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 29 July 2019.	29 July 2019
		17	Ford Custom Tourneo Coachman, converted by Flexi Cab Ltd of Newton Abbott provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed by the producer after 18 October 2019	18 October 2019
		18	Any short wheelbase Mercedes Benz Vito taxi conversion produced by Penso City Vehicles Ltd since 6 August 2008, subject to each individual vehicle meeting the terms of the Council's Hackney Carriage Specifications	3 December 2019
		19	Ford Maxicab, produced by Allied Vehicles (Cab Direct) provided the conversion of the vehicle was completed after 27 November 2025	27 November 2025

2	Steering		
	a	The steering wheel must be on the offside of the vehicle.	
	b	The steering mechanism must be so constructed or arranged that no overlock is possible and the road wheels do not in any circumstances foul any part of the vehicle.	
	c	The steering arms and connections must be of adequate strength and as far as possible protected from damage by collision.	



3	Brake and Steering Connections	
	Where brake and steering connections are secured with bolts or pins, the bolts or pins must be fitted with approved locking devices and they must so be placed that, when in any position other than horizontal, the head of the bolt or pin is uppermost.	

4	Tyres	
	All tyres at normal pressure under load must be approved as having a suitable minimum circumference for correct operation of the taximeter.	

5	Brakes		
	a	All brakes must act directly on the wheels of the vehicle.	
	b	The brakes of one of the braking systems must be applied by pedal.	
	c	The pedal operated braking system must be so designed that notwithstanding the failure of the brakes on any pair of wheels, either on one axle or diagonally opposite, there must still be available for application brakes on the other pair sufficient to bring the vehicle to rest within a reasonable distance.	
	d	Cable connections are not permitted in the pedal operated system.	

6	Suspension		
	a	Every vehicle must be fitted with an efficient suspension system so designed and constructed that there is no excessive roll or pitch.	
	b	Every vehicle must be so constructed or adapted that a failure of a spring, torsion bar or other similar component of the suspension system is not likely to cause the driver to lose directional control of the vehicle.	



7	Transmission	
	Cabs using automatic or semi-automatic transmission must be fitted with a device to prevent the engine starting with the transmission selector in a drive or reverse position.	
8	Bolts and Nuts	
	All moving parts and parts subject to severe vibration connected by bolts or studs and nuts must be fitted with an approved locking device.	
9	Fuel Tanks	
	a	Fuel tanks must not be placed under the bonnet and must be adequately protected from damage by collision
	b	All fuel tanks and all apparatus supplying fuel to the engine must be so placed or shielded that no fuel overflowing or leaking from it can fall or accumulate upon any part or fitting where it is capable of being readily ignited or can fall into any receptacle where it might accumulate.
	c	The filling points for all fuel tanks must be accessible only from the outside of the vehicle and filler caps must be so designed and constructed that they cannot be dislodged by accident.
	d	On purpose built Hackney Carriages only, a device must be provided by means of which the supply of fuel to the engine may be immediately cut off. Its situation, together with the means of operation and "off" position must be clearly marked on the outside of the vehicle. In the case of an engine powered by LPG or petrol, the device must be visible and readily accessible at all times from outside the vehicle.



10	Interior Lighting	
	<p>Adequate lighting must be provided for the driver and passengers. Separate lighting controls for both passenger and driver must be provided. In the case of the passengers compartment an illuminated control switch must be fitted in an approved position. Lighting must also be provided at floor level to every passenger door and be actuated by the opening of those doors.</p>	

11	Electrical Equipment	
	a	All electrical leads and cables must be adequately insulated and where liable to be affected by exposure to water, petrol or oil, must be adequately protected.
	b	All electrical circuits must be protected by suitable fuses.
	c	Batteries must be so placed and protected that they cannot be a source of danger.

12	Emergency Appliances	
	a	An efficient AFFF foam fire extinguisher with a nominal capacity of no less than 1 litre minimum, which complies with the British Standards Institution BS EN3 specification for portable fire extinguishers.
	b	A Small Work Place First Aid Kit that complies with BS 8599-1:2011.

13	Exhaust Pipe	
	<p>The exhaust pipe must be so fitted or shielded that no inflammable material can fall or be thrown upon it from any other part of the vehicle and that it is not likely to cause a fire by its proximity to any inflammable material of the vehicle. The outlet must be placed at the rear of the vehicle in such a position as to prevent fumes from entering the vehicle</p>	



14	Body		
	a	The body must be of the fixed head type with a partially glazed partition separating the passenger from the driver.	
		i Outside dimensions	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall width of the vehicle exclusive of driving mirrors must not exceed 2.05 metres. 	5 July 2018
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall length must not exceed 5.0 metres. 	5 July 2019
		ii. Inside dimensions of passengers compartment	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vertical distance between the point of maximum deflection of the seat cushion when a passenger is seated to the roof immediately above that point must not be less than 96.5 centimetres. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The width across the rear seat cushion must not be less than 1.07 metres. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any curvature of the floor of the passengers' compartment must be continuous and must not exceed 2 centimetres at the partition and 5 centimetres at the base of the rear seat when measured between the centre line and sills. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The door and doorway must be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the doorway of at least 75 centimetres. The minimum angle of the door when opened must be 90 degrees. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clear height of the doorway must not be less than 1.195 metres. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a boot lid is hinged at the bottom a restriction must be fitted to prevent the boot lid serving as a luggage platform. 	



15	Steps		
	a	The top of the tread for any entrance must be at the level of the floor of the passenger compartment and must not exceed 38 centimetres above ground level when the vehicle is unladen.	
	b	The outer edge of the floor at each entrance must be fitted with non-slip treads. If a colour contrast is used to aid a partially sighted person it must be of an approved type.	

16	Wheelchair Facilities		
	a	Approved anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and chairbound disabled person. These anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked. If floor linked, they must be affixed in such a manner that the forces are distributed evenly throughout the floor area by means of a suitable galvanised plate of minimum dimensions 200mm x 200mm which must be used beneath the floor. Restraints for a wheelchair and a person seated in it 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 carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints must be so designed that they do not cause a foreseeable danger to other passengers.	
	b	A ramp (or ramps) for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be available at all times for use at the nearside passenger door. An adequate locating device must be fitted to ensure that the ramp/ramps must be capable of being stowed safely when not in use.	



17 Paintwork and Body Finishes		
	a	<p>i) From 1 April 2006, all Hackney Carriages must have all their exterior bodywork finished in the approved colour, which is AA Yellow (Paint Code SV035).</p> <p>Note: The approved colour, AA Yellow (SV035) is available from: PPG Industries UK Ltd, Division MaxMeyer, Customer Service and Sales Group, Needham Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2AD. Telephone 01449 771779 – general enquiries, Telephone 01449 778585 - for paint colour enquiries, Fax 01449 773495.</p> <p>ii) From 7 November 2019 all new Hackney Carriages Euro 6 Diesel compliant or Zero Emission Compliant (ZEC) or Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) must be the manufacturer's standard black.</p>
	b	<p>The approved colour paint will need to be applied over a suitable primer/base coat, usually grey or beige, in order to achieve the required shade.</p>
	c	<p>Any disputes or queries about whether a vehicle's bodywork is finished in the correct shade will be referred to the Group Leader (Taxi Licensing) for adjudication.</p>

18 Passenger Seats		
	a	<p>The number of passenger seats in the vehicle must not exceed 6. No passenger seat may be fitted in the front of the vehicle (next to the driver).</p>
	b	<p>The measurements from the upholstery at the back to the front edge of the rear seat must be at least 40 centimetres and for each adult person carried a minimum of 40 centimetres must be available when measured along the front parallel edge of the seat cushion.</p>
	a	<p>The width of each rear-facing seat must not be less than 40 centimetres and such seats must be at least 35.5 centimetres when measured from the back to the front of the</p>



		upholstery.	
	b	The vertical distance between the highest point of the undeflected seat cushion and the top of the floor covering must not be less than 35.5 centimetres.	
	c	Where seats are placed facing each other there must be a clear space of 48 centimetres between any part of the front of a seat and any part of any other seat which faces it. This measurement may be reduced to 43.5 centimetres provided adequate foot room is maintained to floor level. Where all seats are placed facing to the front of the vehicle there must be a clear space of at least 66 centimetres in from of every part of each seat squab.	
	b	Rear-facing seats must be so arranged as to rise automatically when not in use. When not in use, rear-facing seats must not obstruct doorways.	
	c	Suitable means must be provided to assist persons to rise from the rear seat, with particular attention to the needs of the elderly and disabled.	

19 Driver's Compartment			
	a	The driver's compartment must be designed so that the driver has adequate room, can easily reach and quickly operate the controls and give hand signals on the offside of the vehicle.	
	b	The controls must be placed to allow reasonable access to the driver's seat and, when centrally placed, must be properly protected from contact with luggage.	
	c	The driver's seat must be designed to accommodate the driver only and be adjustable for height and reach.	
	d	The vehicle must be fitted with adequate devices for demisting, defrosting and washing the windscreen and with a sun visor adjustable by the driver.	



	e	Direction indicators of an approved type must be fitted.	
	f	Every cab must be provided with an approved means of communication between the passenger and the driver. When a sliding window is fitted at the rear of the driver's compartment, the maximum width of the opening must not exceed 11.5 centimetres.	

20 Windows

	a	Windows must be provided at the sides and at the rear.	
	b	Passenger door windows must be capable of being opened easily by passengers when seated. The control for opening a door window must be easily identified, so as not to be mistaken for any other control.	

21 Heating and Ventilation

	An adequate heating and ventilation system must be fitted for the driver and passengers and means provided for independent control by the driver and passengers.	
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22 Glass

	The windscreen must be of a laminated construction and not be tinted, unless it is a standard fitting by the manufacturer. All other windows and glass must be of an approved safety type.	
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23 Door Fittings

	a	An approved type of automotive door locking device must be fitted to passenger doors. When the vehicle is stationary, the passenger doors must be capable of being readily opened from the inside and outside of the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism. The interior door handle must be easily identified so as not to be mistaken from any other control.	
	b	Double catches of approved type must be fitted to all doors.	



24	Floor Covering	
	The flooring of the passenger compartment must be covered with non-slip material which can easily be cleaned.	
25	Luggage	
	Provision must be made for carrying luggage and an efficient method of securing it must be provided.	
26	Horn	
	A horn of approved pattern must be fitted.	
27	Taximeter	
	A taximeter of an approved type must be fitted in an approved position.	
28	'Taxi' Sign	
	a	A 'Taxi' sign of an approved pattern, clearly visible both by day and by night when the cab is not hired, must be fitted.
	b	Any vehicle type approved for licensing (for example, other than a purpose built Hackney Carriage) must display a 'Taxi' sign of an approved design on the rear of the vehicle, in a position designated by the Service Director (Environment and Regulatory Services).
29	Radio Apparatus	
	a	Where apparatus for the operation of a two-way radio system is fitted to a cab, no part of the apparatus may be fixed in the passenger compartment or in the rear boot compartment, if LPG tanks or equipment are situated in these locations.
	b	Any other radio equipment either in the passenger or driver compartment must be approved.



30	Fittings	
	No fittings other than those approved may be attached to or carried upon the inside or outside of the cab.	

31	Maintenance	
	Cabs, including all fittings, advertisements, etc., must be well maintained and kept clean and in good working order. The vehicles will at all times be liable to be subject to test and inspection and, should it be found that a cab is not being properly maintained, or that any part or fitting is not in good working order, a notice will be served on the owner prohibiting them from using the vehicle until the defect has been remedied.	

32	Advertisements		
	a	Suitable advertisements may be allowed on the inside and outside of the cab subject to the approval of the Council.	
	b	Inside advertisements may be displayed only on the base of the occasional seats or along the bulkhead on top of the passenger/driver partition. All such advertisements must be encapsulated in clear non-flammable plastic.	
	c	Except as provided for in paragraph 33 below, external advertisements may be displayed only on:	
		i deleted	7 November 2019
		ii deleted	7 November 2019
		iii the rear windscreen of vehicles in a form which does not obscure the driver's rear view vision.	
		All advertisements must be of an approved size, and must be correctly affixed to a continuous flat surface.	
	d	Advertisement must be of such a form as not to become easily soiled or detached.	
	e	All materials and adhesives used in the manufacture of and for the purpose of affixing advertised displays to cabs must be approved.	
	f	Applications for approval of advertisements must be made in writing to the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride, Derby City Council, Licensing Team, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS.	



33	Badges/Emblems	
	a	In addition to advertisements displayed in accordance with paragraph 32, the official badge or emblem of a motoring organisation, which provides genuine round the clock emergency vehicle and recovery, services on a countrywide basis may be affixed to the radiator grille. Only one such badge or emblem may be so displayed.
	b	No advertisements, badges or emblems, including the stick-on types are to be exhibited other than as provided for in the directions contained in this paragraph or paragraph 32.

34	Damage to Hackney Carriages	
		Any damage to a Hackney Carriage materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle shall be reported to the Council by the proprietor in accordance with section 50(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and until such damage is repaired to the satisfaction of the authorised officer to the Council, the vehicle shall not be used for hire.

35	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	
	a	Any vehicle modified to use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a fuel shall have all associated modifications carried out by an approved and certified installer to the standards specified by the LPG installation manufacturer. The installation shall comply with Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association Code of Practice No. 11 - Autogas Installations or to an equivalent standard accepted by the Council. The proprietor shall provide a Certificate of Safety that the vehicle complies with the relevant Code of Practice on completion of the LPG installation
	b	Any LPG tank shall be located within the vehicle boot and shall not reduce the luggage capacity below 0.28 cubic metres (0.07 cu metres hand luggage per passenger). The location of the LPG tank within the spare tyre



		well shall not be accepted.	
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36	Vehicle Modification	
	<p>The vehicle should hold a Certificate of Conformity identifying it to be holding European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval.</p> <p>If not, or the vehicle has being modified since leaving the manufacturer / supplier, a 'normal' level Voluntary Individual Vehicle Assessment must be carried out before presenting the vehicle at one of the Council approved testing stations</p>	19 January 2017

