

# LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

## REPORT ON THE VEHICLE CHECKS CARRIED OUT ON LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES - 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2018

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018

### Report of Principal Licensing Officer

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the committee of the outcome from the recent unannounced checks carried out jointly with Licensing Enforcement Officers, Lancashire Police, HMRC and VOSA on Licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles operating in Lancaster.

**This report is public**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee note the outcome from the recent unannounced inspections of licenced vehicles carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018.
2. That the Committee consider amending vehicle licence conditions to include the specification of the first aid kit required to be carried in licensed vehicles operating in Lancaster.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The undertaking of roadside vehicle compliance and safety checks on licenced Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles is conducted from time to time, usually as a joint initiative with other Agencies. The purpose of the checks is to determine whether the vehicle complies with the Councils standards for licensed vehicles and to assess road worthiness.
- 1.2 On previous occasions over recent years, the practice has been conducted with the issue of a notice period to all licensed drivers and Operators that the inspections are due to be carried out, providing the date and time for the inspections. However, last year (2017) it was decided to conduct the checks without giving prior notice of the event. The outcome of the 2017 intervention was reported to this committee after the event.
- 1.3 For the checks conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 it was again decided that no notice period would be given and therefore all vehicle inspections were carried out unannounced.

## **2.0 Purpose and extent of the vehicle checks**

- 2.1 The operation was conducted in partnership with VOSA, HMRC and Lancashire Police. The drivers of the vehicles were instructed on the day by Police Officers and via taxi operators to attend the inspections carried out on the rear carpark of the Salt Ayre leisure centre.
- 2.2 The Licensing officers carried out checks to assess compliance with the appropriate Council standards for licensed vehicles whilst the VOSA inspectors focussed on the mechanical roadworthiness of vehicles. HMRC Road Fuel testing unit conducted checks for the misuse of rebated fuels.
- 2.3 All vehicles that were either not operating on the day or due to time constraint could not attend are to be followed up and subject to inspection in the coming weeks.

## **3.0 Summary outcome**

- 3.1 Summary of the main outcome from the operation.

### **Summary inspection results**

- 160 individual vehicle inspections were carried out
- 52 Hackney Carriages and 108 Private Hire Vehicles checked
- Licensing staff issued 86 defect notices & 8 suspension notices
- VOSA issued a handful of prohibition notices
- HMRC found no contraventions

The majority of defects issued were in relation to fire extinguishers and first aid kits, the items were either insufficient, out of date or not fit for purpose. A handful of vehicles were required to be fully valeted, and a small number had more serious defects including bald tyres, faulty doors, illegally tinted windows and mechanical faults.

At the time of writing this report of the 86 defect notices issued, only 3 defects are outstanding and all suspensions have been lifted.

## **4.0 Conclusions**

- 4.1 Licensing Officers and VOSA again felt that by conducting the operation without prior notice to the trade provides more realistic results and contrary to what may be expected, significant complaints were not received from licensed drivers or operators at the time of the operation or in the days that followed. It was felt that had notice been given, the more serious defects such as bald tyres, would not have been found.
- 4.2 In light of the fire extinguisher and first aid kit defects noted, the Principal Licensing Officer considers that there is a need to provide advice to the trade outlining acceptable standards for first aid kits and to include the specification in the rules and regulations.
- 4.3 An internet search provided the following information on a suitable first aid kit for licensed vehicles.

The new British standard for vehicle first aid kits was launched by British Standards Institution on February 1st 2014. The new standard identifies three sizes of motor

vehicle first aid kits, determined by the size of the vehicle, category of the hazard and the passenger numbers.

This motor vehicle first aid kit complies with the new BS 8599-2 (2014) standard for cars, taxis, vans and trucks with a maximum number of 8 passengers.

### **British Standard BS 8599-2 Compliant – Medium sized**

#### **Contents**

- 1 Adherent Dressing
- 2 Burn Dressings
- 10 Cleansing Wipes
- 10 Washproof Plasters
- 1 Foil Blanket
- 2 Gloves (Pair)
- 1 Guidance Leaflet
- 1 Trauma Dressing, Medium
- 1 HSE Dressing, Medium
- 1 Triangular Bandage
- 1 Face Shield
- 1 Heavy Duty Shears

4.4 Members are asked to consider acceptable standards for first aid kits and determine whether to specify in vehicle licence conditions, the amended specification requirements.

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Services have been consulted and there are no financial implications.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any person aggrieved by a condition attached to a licence has the right of appeal to the Magistrates Court.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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