

## Private Hire Vehicle specification

	Proposed specification	Reason for proposed specification
1	Vehicles must conform to M1 vehicle standard  Converted vehicles must have either European whole vehicle type approval/ individual type approval (IVA) or European low volume type approval	These standards are associated with safety standard testing undertaken on the vehicle  M1 type approval applies to mass production car types
2	Vehicles cannot be retrofitted with engines of a poorer emission standard than that of the vehicle at manufacture	The aspiration of the council is for less polluting vehicles
3	No new vehicle licence will be granted to any vehicle which has been subject to any category of vehicle write off	Vehicles that have been written off are repaired outside of insurance and the quality of repair may be to a lesser standard for example the use of second hand parts. It is accepted that in very low value vehicles write offs may occur due to cosmetic bodywork. It is accepted that vehicle testing and inspection may identify some poor quality repairs however this is not always the case. There are a wide range of second hand vehicles on the market and therefore write offs of any category will not be licensed.
4	No renewal licence will be granted to any vehicle which has been subject to any category of write off	For the same reasons as above.
5	No roof signs are permitted  (Please see note below in respect of integral roof signs on wheelchair accessible vehicles)	Roof signs are required to be utilised on hackney carriage vehicles and are prohibited on private hire vehicles for the purpose of differential of the two types of vehicles
6	Access to all passenger seats must be unimpeded. Clear access and egress to all passenger seats must be provided, without the need to tip forward, fold or remove seats.  That the licensing committee may make exceptions for specific models of vehicle, made to the manufacturer's specification, on an individual basis, with vehicles approved in this	This is in the existing specification approved by the Licensing Committee in June 2019 and is worded as such to provide adequate means of customer comfort, whilst allowing the flexibility to provide a wider range of vehicle types onto the licensed fleet which may suit the needs of groups of more than 4 passengers travelling at the same time.

	<p>way added to an approved list of vehicles in order that any future requests to license an identical vehicle could be dealt with automatically.</p> <p><b>NOTE</b> Two door saloon cars with tilted seats are not considered suitable for licensing as the majority of customers would have to access the vehicle via a tilted seat and such vehicles do not add any additional passenger benefits when compared to a 4 door saloon</p>	<p>The additional NOTE regarding 2 door saloon is added for the purposes of clarification</p>
7	<p>Only seats fitted with a three point safety belt fitted as standard by the vehicle manufacturer will be classed as usable by passengers</p> <p>Side facing seats are not permitted</p>	<p>Lap seat belts are less effective than 3 point seat belts</p> <p>Seat belts are not effective in side facing seats and therefore such seats should not be utilised in licensed vehicles. This is not deemed to be restrictive as there are lots of vehicles available on the market that do provide only forward/ rear facing seats</p>
8	<p>The window glass must conform to current DVSA guidelines and be installed at manufacture. Retro fit film/ spray tints will not be permitted</p>	<p>Heavy tints may be fashionable in some types of vehicles, but they prevent site of how many people are in the vehicle and the conduct of people inside the vehicle.</p>
9		
10	<p>No vehicle currently licensed as a hackney carriage / private hire vehicle in another authority will be licensed by Lancaster City Council</p>	<p>It is important that customers can readily identify their private hire vehicle, signage and licence plates are in place to facilitate this. If a vehicle is dual plated in another authority this requires the regular exchange of signage/ plates/ internal signage/ tariff cards/ information for passengers etc. This is deemed impractical</p>
11	<p>The vehicle will have space for a reasonable amount of luggage associated with the maximum passenger numbers</p>	<p>This is not expected to be excessive space. Passengers travelling to the airport will have identified their airport start/ finish point at the time of booking and therefore appropriate vehicles for airport luggage should be identifiable at that time. The vehicle should be able to safely facilitate a couple of suitcases or an average family weekly supermarket shop (i.e. 5 carrier</p>

		bags)
12	The vehicle shall be right hand drive only	For safety purposes and drivers vision
	The vehicle shall have a solid roof / sunroofs are permitted	A convertible vehicle does not provide the same degree of personal protection. There is an adequate supply of solid roof type vehicles available on the market
13	The vehicle shall have a minimum of 4 opening doors. All doors must be fitted with reflectors/ reflective strips or lights which are clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle when the door is open	For safety purposes to prevent someone from knocking over passengers as they egress the vehicle
14	All doors should be capable of being opened from the inside and outside and the interior door handle must be clearly visible and accessible to passengers	For passenger safety
15	Opening windows should be provided in the rear of the vehicle, and must be capable of being opened by passengers. Where this is not possible the vehicle should have an adequate air conditioning system which can be operated by passengers seated in the rear of the vehicle	For passenger safety and comfort
16	All vehicles must have adequate leg and foot room, shoulder width and head height to accommodate a passengers of 6 ft. height and average build. ( For guidance purposes rear seat width should be 129 cm per licensed seat )	For the purposes of passenger comfort
17	With effect from 1 January 2030 private hire vehicle licences will only be granted to vehicles which are zero emission	In line with the aims of the Councils declaration of a climate emergency
18	With effect from 1 January 2025 private hire vehicle licences will only be granted to petrol hybrid vehicles or vehicles which are zero emission	A stepped approach to achieving zero emission policy and securing reduction in air pollution levels
19	The vehicle must not have more than 8 passenger seats or capacity for more than 8 passenger seats	Private hire vehicles can only be licensed to carry a maximum of 8 passengers

20	The vehicle must not have any sign, feature notice or illumination which consists of the word “ taxi” or leads any person to believe the vehicle is a hackney carriage	It is a requirement of legislation that private hire vehicles do not appear as a hackney carriage vehicle
21	The vehicle must be capable of passing the taxi test	
22	Where retrofit emission technology is installed in a vehicle it must be of a type approved by the City Council	This is to ensure that only effective proven technology is used.
23		Consideration may be given to a colour policy in respect of private hire vehicles. If the consultation identifies that the public are unable to identify private hire vehicles separate to hackney carriage

	<b>Specific requirements for private hire wheelchair accessible vehicles</b>	<b>Reason for proposed specification</b>
24	The vehicle must be purpose built by the manufacturer or adapted prior to registration in a manner approved by the manufacturer, for the conveyance of wheelchair bound passengers ( where vehicles have been adapted prior to registration certification will be available )	This is an existing standard currently in force as a licensing condition on hackney carriage vehicles. Wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are also permitted to be licensed; it is important that specialist requirements for wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are included within private hire vehicle specification
25	The vehicle must provide access for a wheelchair either through the nearside rear door or a door at the rear of the vehicle. Any door used for wheelchair access must be capable of opening as wide as the aperture.	This is an existing standard currently in force as a licensing condition on hackney carriage vehicles. Wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are also permitted to be licensed, it is important that specialist requirements for wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are included within the private hire vehicle specification
26	A means to secure both the wheelchair and the wheelchair occupant must be provided; additional handholds and an additional step must be provided for the assistance of elderly and ambulant disabled people; ramps must be carried with the vehicle at all times	This is an existing standard currently in force as a licensing condition on hackney carriage vehicles. Wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are also permitted to be licensed, it is important that specialist requirements for wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are included within the private

		hire vehicle specification
27	If the vehicle was not purpose built for the carriage of wheelchairs the applicant will be required to produce documentary evidence that it was adapted prior to registration, and that the adaption was approved by the manufacturer.	This is an existing standard currently in force as a licensing condition on hackney carriage vehicles. Wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are also permitted to be licensed, it is important that specialist requirements for wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles are included within the private hire vehicle specification
28	A wheelchair accessible private hire vehicle cannot be fitted with an operable roof sign. If the vehicle is fitted with an integral roof sign it must be made inoperable and the roof sign painted the same colour as the body of the vehicle	A private hire vehicle cannot be fitted with a roof sign, a substantial % of wheelchair accessible vehicles are designed as hackney carriage vehicles with integral roof signs. The Council wish to encourage the take up of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the licensed fleet and so do not wish to limit the number of vehicles available to prospective purchasers
29	The Council will not licence as a private hire vehicle a London style taxi/ metro cab type vehicle or any other vehicle that appears to have the design of the “ ionic London cab”	The legislation is clear that private hire vehicles must not have the appearance of a hackney carriage vehicle. The ionic “London style cab” is of a particular design that would lead people to believe it to be a hackney carriage vehicle regardless of any amendments to the roof lights.