

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

It is the Councils intention to realign hackney carriage vehicle licence numbers so that the mandated wheelchair accessible vehicles are clearly identifiable via the licence number.

Hackney Carriage Licence Number	Special Requirements re Vehicle
1 to XX	Any vehicle type that meets the proposed specification below
XX to XX	Must be a wheelchair accessible vehicle and meet the proposed specification below

	Proposed specification	Reason for proposed specification
1	<p>Vehicles must conform to M1 vehicle standard.</p> <p>Converted vehicles must have either European whole vehicle type approval/ individual type approval (IVA) or European low volume type approval.</p>	<p>These standards are associated with safety standard testing undertaken on the vehicle.</p> <p>M1 type approval applies to mass production car types.</p>
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	Unless the vehicle is fitted with an integral taxi roof sign, it must be fitted	Roof signs are required to be utilised on hackney carriage vehicles to differentiate

	with the Lancaster City Council approved taxi roof sign.	them from private hire vehicles. A single design roof sign will promote a point of identification of Lancaster City Council Licensed hackney carriage vehicles
6	<p>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.</p> <p>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 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>NOTE: 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>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> <p>The additional NOTE re 2 door saloon cars 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	The window glass must conform to current DVSA guidelines and be installed at manufacture. Retro fit film/ spray tints will not be permitted	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.
9		
10	No vehicle currently licensed as a hackney carriage / private hire vehicle	It is important that customers can readily identify the licensed status of a vehicle. Vehicle, signage and licence plates are in

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	in another authority will be licensed by Lancaster City Council.	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.
11	The vehicle will have space for a reasonable amount of luggage associated with the maximum passenger numbers.	This is not expected to be excessive space. It is accepted that hackney carriage vehicle may pick up passengers from the station rank who have significant amounts of luggage. Passengers pre-booking and 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. Proposed licence conditions identify that where large amounts of luggage are presented maximum passenger numbers cannot be accommodated.
12	The vehicle shall be right hand drive only.	For safety purposes and drivers' vision.
13	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.
14	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.
15	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.
16	Opening windows should be provided in the rear of the vehicle and must be capable of being opened by passengers.	For passenger safety and comfort.

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	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.	
17	All vehicles must have adequate leg and foot room, shoulder width and head height to accommodate a person of 6ft height and average build.	For the purposes of passenger comfort.
18	With effect from 1 January 2030 hackney carriage 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.
19	With effect from 1 January 2025 hackney carriage 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.
20	The vehicle must not have more than 8 passenger seats or capacity for more than 8 passenger seats.	Hackney carriage hire vehicles can only be licensed to carry a maximum of 8 passengers.
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 hackney carriage vehicles. If the consultation identifies that the public are unable to identify private hire vehicles separate to hackney carriage.

	Specific requirements for wheelchair accessible vehicles	Reason for the proposed specification
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	This is an existing standard currently in force as a licensing condition on hackney carriage vehicles.

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	of wheelchair bound passengers (such adaption will have appropriate certification).	
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.
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.
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.