

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

POLICY FOR VEHICLES MADE OR SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR

THE CARRIAGE OF WHEELCHAIRS

- All vehicles will be licensed on their individual merit and designed or adapted to M1 standard
- Be suitable in every respect to be a Private Hire Vehicle with regard to its mechanical condition in accordance the current testing standards
- Shall carry no more than 8 passengers which includes persons in wheelchairs.
- Be a right hand drive vehicle
- Be so constructed that the doors open sufficiently wide as to allow easy access to and egress from the vehicle
- Knee space: there shall be sufficient space between the front edge of the seats and back seat to safely accommodate the driver and passengers in reasonable comfort
- Be safe
- Be comfortable
- All vehicle over 8 years old will be tested on a six monthly basis
- Access for wheel chair to be via powered tail lift (ramps not permitted)
- Tail lift to have means of manual operation should power system fail.
- Tail lift test and inspection certificates under Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipments Regulations 1998 to be presented to the Licensing Authority on first application and at six monthly intervals thereafter.
- All passenger seats to have three point lap fully operational diagonal seatbelts, one for each passenger carried, fully compliant with British Standards except where the law specifically exempts.
- Be suitable to carry no less than four passengers.
- The interior and exterior of the vehicle shall be maintained in a clean, safe and proper manner. In particular the exterior of the vehicle shall be free of dents, rust or unrepaired accident damage and at all times have uniform paint work equivalent to that supplied by the manufacturer. The interior shall be free of all stains, splits, and tears and the seats shall be required to function in accordance with the original manufacturers' specification.
- No alterations or modifications in relation to design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without complying with road traffic and insurance legislation and the approval of the Licensing Authority.
- The vehicle shall not carry any roof sign or marking that might give the impression that it is a hackney carriage.
- Where the vehicle is utilised for the carriage of passengers in a wheelchair, the following conditions shall apply:
- Access to and exit from the wheelchair position must not be obstructed in any manner at any time except by wheelchair loading apparatus,

- Wheelchair internal anchorage must be of the manufacturer's design and construction and secured in such a position as not to obstruct any emergency exit,
- A suitable restraint must be available for the occupant of a wheelchair,
- The Access lifts to the vehicle must be securely fixed prior to use, and be able to support the wheelchair, occupant and helper,
- The lifts must be securely stored in the vehicle before it may move off.
- Any equipment fitted to the vehicle for the purpose of lifting a wheelchair into the vehicle must have been tested in accordance with the requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (S.I.1998/2307). Any such equipment must be maintained in good working order and be available for use at all times.
- Where a vehicle is designed or adapted to carry a wheelchair, the proprietor shall ensure that the driver has received sufficient training to load and convey wheelchair passengers.
- All new vehicles licensed will have passenger seats with headrests.
- All passengers to travel facing forward.
- Seat/wheel chair tracking to be M1 tested (car standard).
- 1500 mm internal height in area where wheelchairs are positioned for transport.
- Rear doors to be "barn type" **not** lift up tail gate with minimum 1500mm access height across full width of the doorway.
- Rear doors to have mechanism to positively hold them open.
- At least one door at nearside for access to rear passenger compartment.
- Nearside access door to have grab handle to assist entry and exit.
- Nearside entry step height no more than 200mm this can be achieved using a slide/fold out supplementary first step.
- Driver does not need separate access door.
- Minimum space for wheelchair 1300mm longitudinal by 750mm width.
- Vehicle must have adequate ventilation. This may be via opening roof vents as well as windows.
- Fire extinguisher and first aid kit should be available inside the vehicle with its location clearly visible.
- Spare wheel and tyre will be carried where appropriate
- No specific requirement for luggage storage.
- Private hire plate to be permanently fitted.