

# Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee      Date:

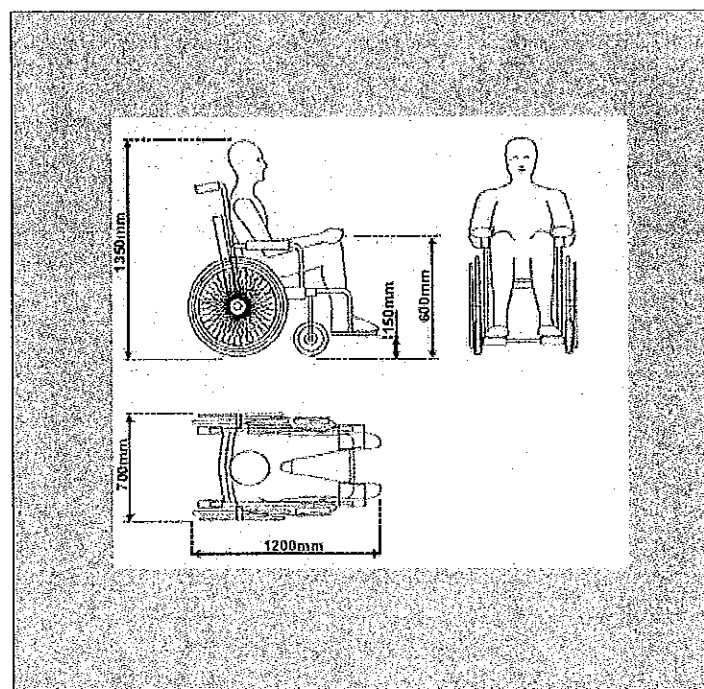
---

## Appendix A

### Swindon Borough Council Proposed Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

#### General Construction

1. Every Hackney Carriage licensed by Swindon Borough Council must comply in all respects with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle (Type Approval) Regulations 1980 [vehicle safety, noise, silencers and braking systems], the Motor Vehicles (Type Approval) Regulations 1984 [vehicle emissions], the Motor Vehicles (EC Type Approval) Regulations 1998 [vehicle roadworthiness and approval of manufacture] and with any further national or international legislation as may be appropriate. They must also comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. Every Hackney Carriage must comply in all respects with the British and European vehicle regulations and be "type approved" to the requirements of the M1 category of European Whole Type Approval Directive 2007/46/EC as amended. **The vehicle must not have been written off for insurance purposes.**
2. Every Hackney Carriage must be so constructed as to facilitate the carriage of persons with disabilities and must be capable, as a minimum, of accommodating a disabled person in a Department for Transport reference wheelchair in the passenger compartment. The dimensions of a DfT reference wheelchair are shown in the attached diagram.



# **Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification**

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

**For the avoidance of doubt, no vehicle incapable of accommodating a disabled person in a wheelchair in the passenger compartment will be eligible for licensing as a Hackney Carriage.**

3. Licensed Hackney Carriages must allow at least 75% light transmission through the front windscreen and no less than 70% light transmission through all other windows. No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the glass on any part of the vehicle.

## **Age of Vehicle**

4. When presented for initial licensing, all vehicles must be less than 5 years old. New Hackney Carriage plates will only be issued for new vehicles, with delivery mileage only on the odometer.
5. Vehicles which are purpose-built hackney carriages (i.e. vehicles which conform in all respects to the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness as published by Transport for London) may be licensed until they are 12 years old, subject to the following conditions:

Once a vehicle reaches 10 (ten) years of age the vehicle must be presented each year, by prior arrangement, to the Licensing Officer for a detailed inspection. At this time the full service history for the vehicle must be presented. To satisfy the inspection the vehicle must be in an exceptionally well maintained condition, both in regard to external bodywork, interior fitments and ancillary equipment. Providing the inspection is satisfactory the vehicle will then be required to undertake two MOT tests per annum (normally at six monthly intervals) at one of the garages contracted by the Council to carry out such tests. The vehicle proprietor shall meet the costs of all such tests and inspections.

6. Vehicles which are not purpose-built hackney carriages (for example, van conversions and vehicles which do not meet the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness) may be licensed until they are 9 years old, subject to the following conditions:

Once a vehicle reaches 7 (seven) years of age the vehicle must be presented each year, by prior arrangement, to the Licensing Officer for a detailed inspection. At this time the full service history for the vehicle must be presented. To satisfy the inspection the vehicle must be in an exceptionally well maintained condition, both in regard to external bodywork, interior fitments and ancillary equipment. Providing the inspection is satisfactory the vehicle will then be required to undertake two MOT tests per annum (normally at six monthly intervals) at one of the garages contracted by the Council to carry out such tests. The proprietor shall meet the costs of all such tests and inspections.

# **Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification**

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

7. A vehicle, which has failed to satisfy the Licensing Officer that it has been exceptionally well maintained, or has failed to pass both MOT as required, shall not be eligible for relicensing under the terms of sections 5 and 6 above.

## **Steering**

8. The steering wheel and driver controls must be on the offside of the vehicle.

## **Wheels and Tyres**

9. Vehicles must have four wheels. Vehicles must also carry a serviceable spare wheel. Tyres must be of the designated size, speed and weight rating for that make and model of vehicle as prescribed by the vehicle manufacturer.
10. If a vehicle is equipped with a "space saver" spare tyre or similar emergency repair system, it may only be used to get the vehicle to a location for the tyre to be changed for a full size tyre. No new fares must be taken when a "space saver" tyre is used.

## **Brakes**

11. An anti-lock braking system is to be fitted.

## **Transmission**

12. Vehicles 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.

## **Interior Lighting**

13. Adequate lighting must be provided for the driver and passengers.
14. Separate lighting controls for both passenger and driver must be provided. In the case of the passenger compartment, an illuminated control switch must be fitted. This must be within reach of wheelchair passengers. Lighting must also be provided at floor level to each passenger door and be activated by the opening of the doors.

## **Body**

15. The body must be of the fixed head type with a partially glazed partition separating the passenger from the driver.

## **Facilities for the Disabled**

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Mike Shears on 466208 or Email [mshears@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:mshears@swindon.gov.uk).

# Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

16. Every hackney carriage shall be equipped to approved standards in order that wheelchair passengers can be carried. All vehicles shall be fitted with a ramp (see item 19) and shall be fitted with a wheelchair retention system to hold wheelchairs firm and secure during transit.
17. There must be at least one doorway through which a wheelchair and occupant can enter. The doorway must be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the doorway of at least 75cm. The minimum angle of a hinged door when opened must be 90 degrees. The doorway must be located on the nearside of the vehicle. Vehicles loading wheelchairs from the rear of the vehicle will not be permitted. The clear height of the doorway must be not less than 1.2 metres.
18. Grab handles must be placed at door entrances to assist the elderly and disabled. All grab handles must be of a contrasting colour.
19. An approved ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be available at all times for use at the nearside passenger door. There must be a slip-resistant surface on the ramp or ramps and a safety guard fitted and used at all times. Ramps must be safely carried in the vehicle at all times and must be identified with the vehicle registration number.
20. Approved anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and chair bound passenger. These anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked and capable of withstanding approved dynamic or static tests. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other. Belts attached to a wheelchair in order to assist a person to remain in the wheelchair whilst travelling will not be acceptable.
21. Vehicles must be capable of carrying a folded wheelchair as luggage. Anchorages should also be provided for the safe storage of the wheelchair, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passenger compartment.
22. Anchorages and restraints must be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers.

## **Passenger Compartment**

23. No vehicle shall contain more than 8 passenger seats.
24. All passenger seats must be either forward or rearward facing.
25. The rear seat dimensions must be adequate to carry the appropriate number of adult passengers comfortably. Rear seats shall provide a minimum clear width of 48 inches, ie 16 inches per person, or metric equivalent.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Mike Shears on 466208 or Email [mshears@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:mshears@swindon.gov.uk).

## Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

Other minimum standards:

Rear height (seat to roof)	34" (or metric equivalent)
Width of seat (back to front)	19" (or metric equivalent)

26. Suitable means must be provided to assist persons to rise from the rear seat with particular attention to the elderly and disabled.
27. Lap and diagonal seat belts must be fitted on all seats (including rear facing seats).
28. Occasional seats must be so arranged as to rise automatically when not in use. They must be placed at least 4cm apart. When not in use, they must not obstruct doorways.
29. Access to every seat must be unobstructed and be easily accessible to passengers and without the need for more than one passenger to move when the vehicle is fully occupied.
30. Head restraints must be fitted on all forward and rear facing seats. The design of headrests should maximise rear sightlines for the driver when any of the passenger seats are not occupied.
31. Passenger doors must be capable of being readily opened from inside and outside the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism. Central locking systems, if fitted, must be in full working order. Sliding doors, if fitted, must have displayed a warning notice affixed securely to the inside of the doors advising passengers to exercise caution when alighting from either side of the vehicle.
32. Sliding doors, if fitted, shall also have displayed an illuminated sign, clearly visible by day and by night, mounted on the rear of the vehicle in such a position so as to be readily seen by following traffic, but so as not to obscure the driver's vision, indicating that the passenger doors are opening. The sign must be automatically linked to the passenger doors in order that when either door handle is activated to open the door, the sign is illuminated and a warning device is activated in the driver's compartment.
33. Power operating doors must be capable of manual operation in the event of power failure.
34. Every vehicle must be provided with an approved means of communication between the passenger and the driver. An induction loop (or equivalent) must be fitted. If a sliding window is fitted on the glazed partition, the maximum width of the opening must not exceed 11.5cm. Where a single-piece glazed partition is fitted, a facility must be provided for making payment to the driver.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Mike Shears on 466208 or Email [mshears@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:mshears@swindon.gov.uk).

# **Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification**

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

35. Video camera monitoring devices, for the purpose of assisting driver or passenger safety, shall be permitted. If such devices are fitted within the vehicle, adequate signage must be displayed in the passenger compartment advising passengers that they are being monitored and/or recorded. It is the driver's/proprietor's responsibility to comply with all aspects of the law regarding such surveillance equipment. Recordings must be made available on request to any statutory authority or the Council's Licensing Officer. Recordings must be retained for 28 days before being overwritten.
36. A sign must be affixed to the inside of the vehicle indicating that smoking is prohibited in the vehicle.

## **Driver Visibility**

37. A single-piece, full width rear window must be fitted. The design of headrests should maximise rear sightlines for the driver when any of the passenger seats are not occupied.

## **Passenger Visibility**

38. The windows should maximise passenger visibility into and out of the vehicle.
39. The bottom of the window line for front and side windows must be low enough to afford passengers adequate visibility out of the vehicle.
40. A proportion of the window area in the passenger compartment must be available for opening by the seated passenger.

## **Heating and Ventilation**

41. An adequate heating and ventilation system must be provided for the driver and passengers and means provided for independent control by the driver and passengers. All switches in the passenger compartment must be within easy reach of seated passengers, including those in wheelchairs.

## **Door Fittings**

42. An approved type of automatic door securing device must be fitted to passenger doors to prevent them being opened when the vehicle is in motion. 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 door must not open from the inside if the driver has the foot brake depressed. The interior door handle must be clearly identified to prevent it being mistaken for any other control.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Mike Shears on 466208 or Email [mshears@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:mshears@swindon.gov.uk).

# Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

*Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee*      **Date:**

---

## **Fare Table**

43. A fare table must be affixed in the passenger compartment so it can be easily read by all passengers.

## **Floor Covering**

44. The flooring of the passenger compartment must be covered with a slip retardant material, which can be easily cleaned. The floor covering must not impede the movement of wheelchairs and the colour must contrast with the colour of the seats.

## **Luggage**

45. Suitable dedicated provision for the secure carriage of luggage must be made, separated from the passenger compartment and proportionate in size to the number of passengers carried.

## **Taxi Meter**

46. At all times when the hackney carriage is plying for hire or hired there shall be affixed to the roof of the hackney carriage an illuminated 'TAXI' sign approved by the Council. During daylight hours a 'day glow' 'for hire' sign should be used when plying for hire, and at night an illuminated 'for hire' sign.
47. At all times when the hackney carriage is plying for hire or hired it shall be provided with a taximeter so constructed attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:
- (i) If the taximeter is fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words 'FOR HIRE':
    - (a) the words 'FOR HIRE' shall be exhibited on each side of the flag or other device in plain letters at least one and a half inches in height and the flag or other device shall be capable of being locked in a position in which the words are horizontal and legible.
    - (b) when the flag or other device is so locked the machinery of the taximeter shall not be in action and the means of bringing it into action shall be by moving the flag or other device so that the words are not conveniently legible.
    - (c) when the flag or other device is so locked that the aforesaid words are horizontal and legible no fare shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter.

## Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

- (ii) If the taximeter is not fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words 'FOR HIRE':
  - (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with a key or other device the turning of which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word 'HIRED' to appear on the face of the taximeter.
  - (b) such key or device shall be capable of being locked in such position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter.
  - (c) When the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in figures clearly legible and free from ambiguity a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by distance and/or time.
  - (d) The word 'FARE' shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon.
  - (e) The taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof shall be at all times plainly visible to any person conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring.
  - (f) The taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the hackney carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.
  - (g) All taximeters shall be submitted for checking over a measured distance within 10 days of any increase in fare tariff or whenever there is a change of vehicle to be licensed, and at any other time that the Licensing Officer considers necessary.
- 48. At all times when the hackney carriage is plying for hire or hired, if provided with a taximeter not fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words 'FOR HIRE', it shall be provided with a sign so constructed as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:
  - (i) the sign shall bear the words 'FOR HIRE' in plain letters at least one and a half inches in height;
  - (ii) the sign shall be capable of being so operated that it indicates clearly and conveniently to persons outside the hackney carriage whether or not the carriage is for hire.



# **Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification**

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee**      **Date:**

---

## **Maintenance**

49. Vehicles should always be kept clean and in good working order. The upholstery and carpets shall be kept clean and in good repair. Vehicles will at all times be subject to test and inspection and should it be found that a vehicle is not being properly maintained or kept in good working order, a notice will be served on the owner prohibiting him/her from using the vehicle until the defect has been rectified.

## **Safety Equipment**

50. There should be provided in a convenient position in the vehicle at all times when it is in use or available for hire, a suitable and efficient fire extinguisher. The fire extinguisher must be checked every 12 months in accordance with the requirements of BS5306 Part 3 and Part 8 by a registered competent company. The date of the test must be clearly visible on a sticker attached to the extinguisher, along with the vehicle registration number.
51. A suitable first aid kit containing appropriate first aid dressings shall be carried in the vehicle to be available for immediate use in an emergency. The vehicle registration number of the vehicle shall be marked thereon. (Please note – the driver should not render aid to any other person unless he/she holds a current First Aid Certificate).

## **Accident Damage**

If a hackney carriage is involved in a motor accident causing damage to the vehicle, the driver must notify the Council's Licensing Officer within three working days and must present the vehicle for inspection, by prior appointment, within 10 working days.

**Swindon Borough Council reserves the right to review and amend these Conditions at any time as and when the Council's Licensing Committee feels it necessary.**