



ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRE-LICENSING STANDARDS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

1. A person being considered for a Hackney Carriage Licence (Plate) on the first and subsequent occasions shall:
 - 1.1. Have a vehicle which is not more than six years old when first licensed, and is not more than ten years old, with the exception of certain specified vehicles.
 - 1.2. Have a vehicle that is in good mechanical order and body condition, and is in full and proper operational order in every respect.
 - 1.3. Have a vehicle which is suitable in type, size and design for use as a Hackney Carriage and according to the manufacturer's unaltered specification has:
 - 1.3.1. Rear seat accommodation for at least 3 persons, with a minimum of 41cm (16") per person.
 - 1.3.2. Separate front seats to accommodate one person in addition to the driver, or for a vintage car or limousine, a bench seat with an armrest to accommodate one person in addition to the driver.
 - 1.3.3. Except with minibuses and similar vehicles, no less than two doors in addition to any door provided for the driver, each adjacent to and allowing direct access to and from the passenger seats.
 - 1.3.4. An overall height of not less than 135cm (53").
 - 1.3.5. An engine with a nominal cubic capacity of not less than 1550cc.
 - 1.3.6. A seat belt for each passenger.
 - 1.4. Submit the vehicle for mechanical inspection when requested and at least:
 - 1.4.1. Upon initial application.
 - 1.4.2. Annually in respect of vehicles up to six years old.
 - 1.4.3. Six monthly in respect of vehicles over six years old and up to ten years old.
 - 1.4.4. Four monthly in respect of vehicles over ten years old defined under condition 1.1.

2. Produce the current Vehicle Inspectorate MOT Test Certificate following each mechanical inspection and upon request.
3. Produce such insurance documents as may be required, specifying that the vehicle is insured for public hire.
4. In respect of every third, sixth, ninth and twelfth licence granted to an individual or company, the vehicle must comply with the specification for Wheelchair Accessible Taxis contained in the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995.
5. Produce such documents or any other evidence of proprietorship of the vehicle as may be required by the Council.
6. Individual applicants must live within the District of Rochford or an immediately adjacent District. Companies must have business accommodation within the District of Rochford.
7. A Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence will not be issued to an individual or in the case of a Company all Directors, the Manager, the Secretary and all similar officers, where those persons would be refused a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence by reason of a conviction recorded against them.
8. Give two referees as to character who are not related to the applicant and who have known the applicant in a professional sense.
9. Transfer of Licence.
 - 9.1. On the first application for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence after the transfer of it from the person to whom it was granted, the licence will only be issued if the person to whom it was transferred complies with the pre-licensing conditions.
 - 9.2. Condition 8.1 applies to a person entering into partnership with the person to whom the licence was granted, and to a partner applying for a licence in his own name after a partnership has been dissolved.
 - 9.3. The person or company to whom it was transferred complies with the criteria for the allocation of a licence in respect of a wheelchair Accessible Taxi.

NOTE: After the issue of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence, the vehicle may only be driven by a driver holding a current Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence.