



ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRE-LICENSING STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

A person being considered for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence (Plate) on the first and subsequent occasions shall:

1. Standard Vehicle Specification in respect of Saloon, Hatchback, and Estate Motor Cars, Minibuses, People Carriers and Limousines:
 - 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 Private Hire Vehicle 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.
 - 1.3.7. Adequate luggage accommodation with suitable restraints to prevent items in non-saloon vehicles becoming insecure.
 - 1.3.8. In respect of Minibuses a minimum of two doors to the passenger accommodation shall be provided. Where seat rows do not have immediate access to a doorway, a clear passageway must be provided as a means of access and egress.
 - 1.4. A Taximeter may be fitted to a Standard Specification Vehicle.

2. Special Event Vehicle Specification - Stretched Limousine

Any stretched limousine submitted for licensing, which does not comply with the requirements of the standard vehicle specification shall have:

- 2.1. Separate front seats to accommodate one person in addition to the driver, or a bench seat with an armrest to accommodate one person in addition to the driver.
- 2.2. A maximum passenger accommodation of seven. (NOTE: For the purpose of calculating seating capacity the measurement unit of a single seat width shall be 41cm (16") per person.)
- 2.3. All seat positions fitted with approved seat belts.
- 2.4. In addition to the Driver and front passenger doors, two doors allowing access to the rear passenger compartment shall be provided on the near and off-side of the vehicle.
- 2.5. An overall vehicle height of not less than 135cm (53")
- 2.6. An engine rating providing adequate power relative to the size of vehicle.
- 2.7. TAXIMETERS shall not be fitted to vehicles licensed within the Stretched Limousine Vehicle category.

3. Special Event Vehicle Specification - Heritage Vehicle

- 3.1. A Heritage Vehicle is either a Veteran Car manufactured prior to 31:12:1916 or Vintage Car manufactured between 1:1:1917 and 31:12:1930 or defined as a "Classic" Car, which is not a Stretched Limousine.
- 3.2. Subject to the vehicle being deemed suitable for licensing, the Council may vary or impose additional Conditions appropriate to each individual Application.
- 3.3. TAXIMETERS shall not be fitted to vehicles licensed within the Heritage Vehicle category.

4. Submit the vehicle for mechanical inspection when requested and at least:

- 4.1.1. Upon initial application.
- 4.1.2. Annually in respect of vehicles up to six years old.
- 4.1.3. Six monthly in respect of vehicles over six years old and up to ten years old.
- 4.1.4. Four monthly in respect of vehicles over ten years old defined under condition 1.1.

5. Produce the current Vehicle Inspectorate MOT Test Certificate following each mechanical inspection and upon request.
6. Produce such insurance documents as may be required, specifying that the vehicle is insured for public hire.
7. Produce such documents or any other evidence of proprietorship of the vehicle as may be required by the Council.

8. Individual applicants must live within the District of Rochford or an immediately adjacent District. Companies must have business accommodation within the District of Rochford.
9. A Private Hire 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 Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence by reason of a conviction recorded against them.
10. Give two referees as to character who are not related to the applicant and who have known the applicant in a professional sense.
11. Transfer of Licence
 - 11.1. On the first application for a Private Hire 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.
 - 11.2. Condition 11.1 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.
 - 11.3. 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 Private Hire Vehicle Licence, the vehicle may only be driven by a driver holding a current Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence.

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