

**VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS UNDER EXISTING 'TAUNTON DEANE' TAXI AREA POLICY (AS OUTLINED UNDER THE POLICY'S APPENDIX 4 – STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE):**

## **Appendix 4**

### **Standard Conditions for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence**

1.
  - (a) a licensed vehicle may not be a London type taxi (TX1 and Metrocab)
  - (b) or of such a design an appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage.
2. If the licensed vehicle is hatchback or estate or minibus it must be fitted with a boot cover or guard rail to separate the rear luggage area from the passengers to the approval of the Council.
3. If during the period of this licence the appearance or design of the licensed vehicle is to be altered then prior written consent of the Council to such an alteration must be obtained.
4. The Proprietor of the licensed vehicle shall:
  - (a) keep the interior and the exterior of the vehicle clean and free from damage in line with the Two Part Test criteria.
  - (b) ensure that the vehicle is fitted with windows that open or has appropriate ventilation in good working order.
  - (c) provide and maintain an efficient fire extinguisher in the licensed vehicle which should be readily available for use at all times.
  - (d) permanently mark the fire extinguisher with the registration number of the vehicle.
  - (e) provide and maintain in the licensed vehicle a first aid kit that which complies with the guidance in the Vehicle Licensing Criteria.
5. If the licensed vehicle is provided with a taximeter the Proprietor of the vehicle shall ensure that it constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with such device which will start the taximeter and will cause the word "hired" to be displayed to passengers.
  - (b) when the taximeter is turned on the fare on the taximeter should be clearly visible to passengers.
  - (c) the taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the vehicle with seals or other appliances so that it shall not be practical for any person to tamper with them.
  - (d) the proprietor shall not permit any person to tamper with any of the seals on the taximeter unless authorised to do so by the Licensing Manager.
  - (e) the proprietor shall notify the Council immediately if the seals on the taximeter are broken.
6. If the licensed vehicle is provided with a taximeter the proprietor of the vehicle shall:

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- (a) produce a statement, in a form approved by the Council, of the fare rate on which the fare recorded on the face of the taximeter is based.
  - (b) display the statement referred to in 6a above on the inside of the vehicle so that it is clearly visible and legible to passengers, to the approval of the Council.
7. The external plate issued by the Council shall state the Private Hire Vehicle licence number, the maximum number of passengers which the Council has licensed the vehicle to carry and must be fixed on the rear of the vehicle. All newly issued Taunton Deane Borough Council vehicle plates must be fixed on the rear of the vehicle. Where practicable the plate must be visible when the boot is in an upright position, and preferably low down on the extreme right or left hand side of the vehicle. The plate must not protrude below the bottom edge of the bumper of the vehicle and not be placed in the rear window of the vehicle. An internal plate issued by the Council, stating the plate number of the vehicle and the vehicle registration, shall be fixed to the interior of the vehicle so as to be clearly seen by passengers to the satisfaction of the Council.
8. The proprietor of a Private Hire vehicle shall display the Private Hire vehicle plates issued by the Council at all times unless the vehicle has the benefit of an exemption to display the external plate.
9. Notwithstanding section 58 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Proprietor of the vehicle shall remove the plates referred to in 7 above and return to the Council within two working days, except where written permission has been given by the Licensing Manager to extend this time:
  - (a) when the vehicle ceases to be a licensed vehicle.
  - (b) when the licence is revoked or suspended by the Council including suspension and revocation under section 60 and 68 of the above Act.
10. If the plates referred to in paragraph 7 above are not returned in accordance with paragraph 9 then they may be removed by an Authorised Officer of the Council or a Constable.
11. In the event that the plate is damaged lost or stolen the proprietor shall notify the Council immediately and pay the Council the relevant fee for a replacement.
12. If the vehicle is suspended or the licence is revoked and the plates are subsequently damaged on removal by an Authorised Officer or Constable the proprietor shall then pay the requisite fee for the replacement of the plates, if necessary.
13. No commercial advertising is allowed on Private Hire Vehicles, the only advertising allowed on Private Hire Vehicles shall comply with the following requirements:

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- (a) signs must not be magnetic, the lettering must be of the same size and font for all wording and
  - (b) they are a maximum size of 450mm by 450mm and a minimum of 300mm by 300mm, the signs must contain the words "Private Hire vehicle" and "Advance Bookings Only". The sign may include the firms' telephone number and the firms' name, the firms' name may not include the words "Taxi" and/or "Cab". No other words are to be allowed; and
  - (c) they are to the approval of the Licensing Manager.
14. Subject to condition 13 no advertisement sign or light may be placed inside or outside the licensed vehicle that is not required by law or by these conditions. Exceptions to this condition will only be by prior written approval of the Licensing Manager.
15. The proprietor of the licensed vehicle shall ensure that the vehicle is insured for the carriage of passengers for hire and reward at all times.
16. The proprietor and or the driver of the vehicle shall not permit cause or suffer a greater number of passengers to be conveyed in the vehicle than specified in the licence.
17. The proprietor of the licensed vehicle which has sustained \*damage in any accident (or by any other means) shall without prejudice to the provisions an obligations of the Road Traffic Act and section 50(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:
- (a) notify the council in writing of such damage as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 72 hours of the occurrence.
  - (b) submit the licensed vehicle to the Council's Licensing Manager within 72 hours.
  - (c) not permit any passenger or member of the public to be conveyed in the vehicle unless and until the Council's Licensing Manager is satisfied that it may be so used.
- \*damage is any damage to the vehicle that would cause the vehicle to fail the Two Part Test
18. The proprietor of the licensed vehicle shall ensure that the vehicle is at all times:-
- (a) operated by a person who holds a valid Private Hire Operators Licence issued by the Council.
  - (b) driven by a person who holds a valid Private Hire Drivers Licence issued by the Council.

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19. If the vehicle is to be used for the conveyance of passengers in wheelchairs then the securing mechanism in the vehicle for the wheelchairs must be used so as to ensure the safety of the passenger at all times. Wheelchairs must only be carried forward or rearward facing.
20. The licensed vehicle shall be so designed that it shall:-
  - (a) provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such vehicle and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver.
  - (b) provide seatbelts for all passengers.
  - (c) provide at least 16inches/406mm of clear space per passenger seat (cushion width or bottom space) this measurement should be taken for the widest part of the seat per passenger .
  - (d) provide at least 9inches/229mm of clear knee room per passenger, measured from the front portion of the passenger seat to the rear of the seat in front.
  - (e) provide adequate means of heating and ventilation for all passengers.
  - (f) shall be capable of carrying a reasonable quantity of luggage which must be to the satisfaction of the Council.
  - (g) provide drivers mirrors on the near and offside.
  - (h) not be a convertible/cabriolet type vehicle.
  - (i) be right hand drive only.
21. The vehicle licence holder shall keep the vehicle, as is reasonably practicable, in a clean and tidy condition at all times.
22. The licence holder shall ensure that there are no apparent defects to the vehicle and that the vehicle is fit to be used for gain.
23. The vehicle licence holder shall ensure that the vehicle is not equipped with any scanning equipment.
24. If a vehicle is to be a licensed Private Hire vehicle for the first time it must be no older than seven years from the date of first registration.
25. If a licensed Private Hire vehicle is to be replaced, it must be replaced with a vehicle no older than seven years from the date of first registration.
26. Specialist and novelty vehicles or vehicles that have been subject to extensive modification for Disabled Access purposes, will not need to comply with the above conditions. Each vehicle will be considered on individual application to the Licensing Manager.
27. All vehicles must comply with Taunton Deane Borough Council Vehicle Licensing Criteria at all times during the period of the vehicle licence.

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### **Terms used in these conditions are as follows:-**

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| “the Council” -       | Taunton Deane Borough Council  |
| “Driver” -            | Any Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licensed with the Council  |
| “Authorised Officer”- | Any Officer of the Council authorised for the purposes of these conditions   |
| “Constable”-          | Any Police Officer authorised for the purposes of these conditions   |
| “Vehicle”-            | A licensed Private Hire vehicle with this Council (vehicle includes interior, exterior and engine bay)   |
| “Proprietor” -        | The owner or, in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hiring agreement or hire purchase or purchase agreement, the person in possession of the vehicle under that agreement |
| “Plates”-             | Means the plates issued by the Council for the purposes of identifying the vehicle as a vehicle licensed with the Council  |