

Report to Environment and Licensing Committee

Subject: Amendment to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual

Date: 10th May 2016

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Purpose of the Report

To approve:

- the proposed amendment to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual detailed in appendix A
- that all vehicles presented at the test station in pursuit of either a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicle licence, on or after 1st April 2016, will be considered and tested in line with Gedling Borough Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual as amended

Background

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (“the Act”) enables Local Authorities to administer licences for Hackney carriage and Private Hire vehicles and drivers. The Act provides that a Local Authority shall not grant a licence unless the vehicle is deemed suitable in type, size and design - is in suitable condition, and the vehicle is ‘safe and comfortable.’ The Council can apply any tests and checks it deems appropriate to establish this.

Members will be aware of changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual on 9th February 2016. Whilst no feedback was received during the consultation, the trade has contacted the Council regarding the need for a MOT, for vehicles presented for a test that are under 3 years of age. Officers have listened and have reconsidered our position on this. However, any changes made to the specification require Members approval.

The proposed amendments can be found in the new document Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual, see Appendix A which is accompanied by a Record of Changes, at Appendix B

Proposal

It is proposed that all vehicles, both new to the fleet and existing licensed vehicles, be subjected to, and be tested against the new combined Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual as laid out in Appendix A. It is felt this document will be beneficial to the trade and the public, as it will provide clear and consistent information, with respect to obtaining a vehicle licence from this Authority.

If the amendments are approved and the document is adopted, all vehicles from the 1st April 2016, will be required to meet the specification, and will be tested in line with the requirements of the new document. Existing licensed vehicles presented for retest to obtain another licence will be subject to the specification and test at the time of renewal inspection.

Recommendation

That Members approve:

- the proposed amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual detailed in Appendix A
- That all vehicles presented at the test station in pursuit of either a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicle licence, on or after 1st April 2016, will be considered and tested in line with Gedling Borough Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual

Attachments

Appendix A
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual
relevant pages

Appendix B
Record of Changes

SECTION 1 – Vehicle Specification

Before a Licence is granted in respect of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle, the applicant must ensure that the vehicle is suitable in type, size and design for use as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle in accordance with the standards laid down by the Council.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, a licence will only be issued in respect of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle provided it complies with all the following requirements (note that at the Council's discretion any of the following items can be relaxed).

1. Age and Condition

A new Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence will not be issued to any vehicle over 6 years of age. The age of the vehicle will be measured from the date of first registration.

All vehicles are tested on a six monthly basis and, provided they satisfactorily pass the Council's test, will be issued with a licence for a period of six months. However, Vehicles which are 3 years of age or under and have a mileage of less than 36,000, (the Council considers 12000 miles per year to be average mileage) will be granted a licence for a period of one year provided the vehicle satisfactorily passes the Council's test. The vehicle must be under 3 years of age from date of registration and the Vehicle Inspector will need to check the Vehicle Registration Document to verify this.

Every vehicle must have a valid MOT certificate, except vehicles that are presented for a test within one year of first registration.

Vehicles that have been declared to be an insurance 'write off' in category A, B, C will not be licensed. Vehicles that have been declared a category D 'write off' may be licensed providing the applicant provides an appropriate Engineer's report, approved by the Council, verifying the standard of repairs.

2. Engine - layout, fuel type and minimum capacity

The vehicle must have a front engine layout and be powered by a fuel type of either petrol, diesel, LPG, electric, or a combination of the aforementioned. The **minimum** capacity for an internal combustion engine powered by petrol, diesel or LPG is 1000cc. Vehicles with 1000cc registered before 1st January 2015 will not be granted a licence. The minimum capacity for vehicles registered before 1st January 2015 is 1300cc.

SECTION 2 – Vehicle Test

Vehicle Test Information

The test is to determine the vehicle is `safe and comfortable` and meets the specification and requirement as determined within this document. Vehicles will be tested to MOT standard, with the vehicle being subjected to a static inspection and a road test.

All vehicle tests should be booked and paid for before presenting the vehicle for test at the test centre. Proof of booking and payment confirmation will be required on presenting the vehicle for test.

The following documents will be required for presentation at the test centre prior to the test commencing. Failure to provide any of the following documents may result in the test being delayed or the vehicle failing the test.

- Vehicle Log Book – V5 form (A signed Green slip or notice from previous keeper if the vehicle is progressing through change of ownership)
- Current MOT Certificate (A current MOT Certificate must be produced when the vehicle is presented for inspection at the Council's Test Centre, except vehicles that are presented for a test within one year of first registration).
- Current Road Tax – print-out from the website www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax
- Current Certificate of Insurance
- Vehicle Test Sheet – including proof of booking and payment
- Taxi Meter Calibration Certificate (confirming the meter is calibrated with the Councils Rates of Fares, is calendar controlled and is sealed according to the Councils requirements).
- Wheelchair lift / hoist test certificate (if applicable)

All test fees are non-refundable unless the test has been cancelled 48 hours prior to the date of the test. If the vehicle presented at the test station does not match the vehicle details recorded on the booking list, the vehicle will not be tested and the test fee will not be refunded. Should the driver wish for the vehicle to be tested, then a new booking will be required and the vehicle presented on the new date.

Record of Proposed amendment to the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicle Specification, Inspection and Testing Manual	
Current	Proposed
Page 4 – 1. Age and Condition, paragraph 3	Page 4 – 1. Age and Condition, paragraph 3
<i>A current MOT Certificate must be produced when the vehicle is presented for inspection at the Councils Test Centre, regardless of the age of the vehicle.</i>	<i>Every vehicle must have a valid MOT certificate, except vehicles that are presented for a test within one year of first registration.</i>
Page 10 – Vehicle Test Information, bullet point 2	Page 10 – Vehicle Test Information, bullet point 2
<i>Current MOT Certificate (A current MOT Certificate must be produced when the vehicle is presented for inspection at the Council's Test Centre, regardless of the age of the vehicle)</i>	<i>Current MOT Certificate (A current MOT Certificate must be produced when the vehicle is presented for inspection at the Council's Test Centre, except vehicles that are presented for a test within one year of first registration).</i>