

**Pre Licensing and Licensing Conditions**  
**for**  
**Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles & Operators**



## **Pre Licensing Conditions for Drivers**

In order to ensure that licensed drivers are reliable and of good character, a person applying for a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence shall:-

1. Be vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) by completing the form for an Enhanced Disclosure and providing the response from the DBS as part of the application and any renewal.<sup>1</sup>

If an applicant has spent six continuous months or more overseas, the Licensing Authority will expect to see evidence of a criminal record check from the country / countries covering this period. The criminal record check must be in English, if not, it must be translated into English by a certified translator acceptable to the Licensing Authority.

2. Fully complete an application form showing all convictions, spent and unspent, including any conviction for which the applicant has been rehabilitated under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, as amended.<sup>2</sup>

3. Not have been convicted or cautioned for a criminal offence during the previous three to five years (depending upon the offence) or convicted or cautioned for a serious criminal offence or a sexual offence during the previous ten years.

4. Produce a current GB, EU or Northern Ireland Driving Licence which is a full licence to drive a motor car and has been held for at least three years prior to the date of application.<sup>3</sup>

If an EU driving licence, applicants must have at least a year's experience of driving on UK roads within three years of their application for a Driver's Licence. Applicants must evidence this by providing, for example, proof of insurance; UK vehicle registration forms; or employment as a driver in the UK.

5. Produce a medical certificate in the prescribed form on application for initial and renewal of the licence and on an annual basis once reaching 65 years of age.<sup>4</sup>

6. New applicants for licence after 1st April 2010 shall complete a knowledge and community awareness test to the satisfaction of the Council's Licensing Officer.<sup>5</sup>

7. Be over 21 years of age.

8. Supply the names and addresses of two people for character references.

## **Notes of Accompany the Conditions**

1. DBS applications may be submitted through a "DBS Umbrella Organisation" or through a special arrangement with Chelmsford City Council. The applicant must pay the fee direct to the processing body on application. The fee is not refundable if the licence application is refused. DBS disclosures must be current and issued no more than 28 days before the licence application.

2. The licensing of hackney carriage and private hire drivers is an exemption to the non-disclosure rule set out in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. A licence will not be granted to an applicant who has been convicted of or received a caution in relation to a serious criminal offence during the past ten years. Older convictions and less serious offences will be considered in relation to their relevance to the application.

3. Applicants are required to submit a DVLA Driving entitlement consent form with their application.

4. The medical examination should be completed by your own doctor at your expense. A medical certificate should be returned by your doctor directly to the Council. Licensees who

have reached the age of 65 years shall submit themselves for an annual medical examination. The Council reserves the right to demand additional medical examinations at any time.

5. The knowledge test will cover geographical knowledge of the Maldon District, awareness of the legislation covering hackney carriages and private hire vehicles and drivers, and passenger safety and comfort. The test will not apply to existing drivers who renew licences without a break.

6. All relevant facts will be taken into account when consideration is given to an application for a Driver's Licence. Each applicant is considered on his or her own merit and where any doubt exists, the applicant will be interviewed by the Licensing Sub-Committee. Any applicant refused a drivers licence on the grounds that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to hold such a licence has a right of appeal to a Magistrates' Court.

7. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licences are renewable every three years.

### **Licensing Conditions for Drivers**

1. The driver shall immediately report to the Licensing Authority, in writing, any health matter which could affect his or her driving. If requested by the Licensing Authority, a medical certificate shall be provided within seven days.

2. The driver shall within seven days disclose to the Licensing Authority, in writing, details of any arrest, conviction (including cautions), fixed penalty notice or driving licence endorsement during the period of the licence.

3. The driver shall notify the Licensing Authority in writing of any change to his or her name or address within seven days of such change taking place.

4. A driver shall at all times when driving a private hire vehicle or hackney carriage affix to his / her clothing the identity badge issued by the Licensing Authority and display the window badge in the vehicle so as to be clearly and distinctly visible to passengers and prospective hirers.

5. The driver shall produce this licence on request to any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or Police Officer.

6. The driver shall not carry, or permit to be carried, a greater number of persons than that prescribed in the licence for the vehicle.

7. The driver shall give reasonable assistance to passengers with luggage, wheelchairs or walking aids.

8. The driver shall carry a disabled person's dog (e.g. guide or hearing dogs) and allow it to remain with that person or, if a driver of a designated wheelchair accessible vehicle, wheelchair passengers at no additional cost, as specified in sections 165 and 168 of the Equality Act 2010, unless exempted by the Council on medical grounds.

9. The driver shall not call out or otherwise importune any person to hire the vehicle and shall not make use of the services of any other person in hiring the vehicle.

10. The driver shall not at any time play a radio or other sound reproducing equipment in the vehicle without the express consent of the hirer, unless for the sending and receiving of messages in connection with the operation of the vehicle.

11. The driver shall search the vehicle immediately after completion of a hiring for any property left by a passenger. If any such property is found, it shall be returned to the owner or reported on the Essex Police website within 48 hours. Records of lost property (including

description of property; date found; date returned to owner or reported on the Essex Police website; and date of disposal) to be maintained for twelve months

12. The licence is not transferable and must be renewed at the end of the period for which the licence is in force; such period shall not exceed three years.

13. If not renewed, or on revocation or surrender, the driver shall forthwith return the driver and window badges to the Licensing Authority.

### **Notes to Accompany the Conditions**

1. For the purpose of these conditions the Licensing Authority shall be Maldon District Council.

### **Pre Licensing Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles**

A vehicle subject to an application for a Private Hire Licence is expected to comply with the following conditions.

1. The vehicle shall be in satisfactory mechanical order and body condition and in operational order in all respects.

2. The applicant shall submit the vehicle for mechanical inspection at his or her own expense at an approved testing station as directed by the Licensing Authority and provide a completed certificate of inspection. The frequency of testing required thereafter is set out in the conditions below.

3. A vehicle shall be either:-

- a saloon, hatchback, estate vehicle, minibus or people carrier type which is unaltered from the manufacturer's original technical specification with the exception of approved conversions to alternative fuels; or
- a purpose built vehicle or a vehicle suitably converted to a disabled access vehicle.

4. The vehicle shall be right hand drive.

5. All vehicles submitted for licensing shall meet the following standards for design and equipment.

a) A private hire vehicle shall not be of such a design or appearance as to lead any persons to believe that it is a hackney carriage vehicle.

b) The vehicle shall have at least two doors for use by passengers, in addition to a separate door for the driver (except for minibuses and similar vehicles).

c) The vehicle shall have rear seat accommodation for not less than three persons.

d) The vehicle shall have separate front seats for at least one person in addition to the driver (with the exception of London style cabs).

e) Where the vehicle is a minibus or 'people carrier' type, with two rows of seats behind the driver and front passenger seats, the seat nearest the door of the middle row must be able to fold or move forward as per the manufacturer's original specification to allow ingress or egress to the rear seats. Clear instructions for operating the seats must be provided in full view of the rear seat passengers. Where this is not possible, the seat must be permanently removed.

f) The vehicle shall:-

- be of such design that the driver can communicate verbally with any passenger carried;
- be fitted with an interior light capable of illuminating the interior and for the use of any passenger carried;

- be fitted with flooring of proper matting, carpet or other suitable material;
- be fitted with cushioned seats, the upholstery of which is free from splits, holes, cuts or other damage;
- provide a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side of the vehicle;
- have the roof covered and kept watertight;
- be fitted with adequate seatbelts for use by passengers;
- be capable of accommodating a reasonable amount of luggage in a safe and secure manner (if the vehicle is a hatchback or estate vehicle, it shall be fitted with a guardrail of approved construction to separate the luggage area from the passenger compartment);
- be capable of accommodating a wheelchair either constructed or collapsed in a reasonable manner.

g) The vehicle shall be equipped with a suitable fire extinguisher.

h) The vehicle shall be fitted with a spare wheel that is in a serviceable condition.

i) The vehicle shall not be fitted with any roof sign without the prior consent of the Licensing Authority.

6. The vehicle proprietor must submit the following documents prior to issue of the licence. The documents must be current at the time the licence commences.

- a) An insurance certificate or cover note that expressly indicates ON RISK cover for hire and reward.
- b) A mechanical inspection certificate.
- c) A Department of Transport Certificate (as required under Section 47 Road Traffic Act 1988), when the vehicle is one year old from the date of first registration.
- d) A current vehicle excise licence.
- e) The Vehicle Registration Document showing the vehicle proprietor's current name and address.

7. No advertising shall be displayed on the vehicle that in the opinion of the Licensing Authority detracts from the visibility of its private hire vehicle licence plates and such other forms of livery and identification required by the Licensing Authority.

8. In the case of a private hire vehicle to be licensed in the name of a company, all directors, managers, secretary and other similar officers of the company must be persons who would not otherwise be refused a Licence to drive a private hire vehicle by reason of a conviction recorded against them.

### **Notes to Accompany the Conditions**

1. These conditions apply to vehicles presented for licensing as a Private Hire Vehicle after 1 April 2010.

2. Transitional arrangements for the renewal of existing vehicle licences will apply as follows:-

- i) The requirement for removal of a seat from mini bus and MPV vehicles in condition 5e will only apply to vehicles licensed for the first time from 1 April 2010. The remaining requirements of that condition will apply to the renewal of licences for all relevant vehicles from 1 April 2010.

### **Licensing Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles**

A District Council may attach to the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence any such conditions as it may consider reasonable or necessary and accordingly may at any time vary, alter or impose new conditions. The following conditions apply to all Private Hire Vehicle Licences issued by Maldon District Council.

### **Vehicle Identification**

1. At any time the vehicle is being operated as a private hire vehicle, the identification plates issued by the Licensing Authority shall be fixed to the front and rear of the vehicle in a position that is clearly visible to the public. This condition may be suspended at the discretion of the Licensing Authority if reasonable cause can be shown, in which case alternative requirements for carrying and displaying plates may be substituted.
2. The door stickers provided by the Licensing Authority shall be permanently attached and displayed on the upper panels of both front doors. This condition may be suspended at the discretion of the Licensing Authority if reasonable cause can be shown, in which case alternative requirements for carrying and displaying the vehicle identification may be substituted.
3. The vehicle and driver identity badges shall be displayed in the passenger compartment in a conspicuous position that is clearly visible to passengers.
4. A roof sign shall not be displayed on the vehicle in any form.
5. The words 'TAXI', 'CAB' or 'FOR HIRE' shall not be displayed on or in the vehicle or in any advertisement for the service.
6. Reference to Maldon District Council in any advertisement for the service must be limited to the phrase 'Licensed by Maldon District Council' and must not suggest any other form of approval or endorsement by the Council.
7. No advertising shall be displayed on the vehicle that in the opinion of the Licensing Authority detracts from the visibility of its private hire licence plates and such other forms of livery and identification required by the Licensing Authority.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

8. The vehicle shall be kept in a clean and well maintained condition.
9. No material alteration or change to the manufacturer's specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made at any time when the licence is in force without the prior approval of the Licensing Authority.
10. Adequate and secure luggage facilities must be provided and maintained at all times.
11. The vehicle shall be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in accordance with ISO 7165.
12. In respect of any minibus or people carrier type vehicle where a seat has been removed to meet pre-licensing conditions, the seat shall not be replaced at any time the vehicle is licensed as a private hire vehicle.

### **Vehicle Testing**

13. The vehicle shall be submitted for mechanical inspection at an approved testing station at the licensee's expense and provide a completed certificate of inspection provided for the Licensing Authority at the following intervals.
  - a) Vehicles less than three years old, one test per year on application for renewal.
  - b) Vehicles between three and six years old, two tests per year at six monthly intervals.
  - c) Vehicles older than six years, three tests per year at four monthly intervals.
14. The vehicle shall be submitted for mechanical or other inspection at any time if required by the Licensing Authority in addition to the intervals set out in 13 above.
15. The vehicle shall be submitted for inspection in a condition that renders it suitable for that inspection, including being clean inside and out.

16. A completed test certificate shall be submitted to the Licensing Authority as soon as practicable after the test has been completed. If the vehicle fails the test for any reason, it shall not be used as a private hire vehicle until such time as the defects are corrected and the vehicle passes a re-test.

17. A proprietor of a licensed private hire vehicle shall report to the Licensing Authority as soon as practicable, and in any case within 72 hours, the occurrence of any accident involving the private hire vehicle involving any damage to the vehicle, whether or not the damage affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers.

#### **Insurance and Documentation**

18. A private hire vehicle proprietor must:-

- a) comply with the relevant legislation in relation to the insurance cover of the vehicle;
- b) ensure a current certificate of motor insurance is on display or available in the vehicle for inspection on request;
- c) produce to the Licensing Authority proof of continuous insurance cover for the vehicle.

19. A private hire vehicle proprietor must:-

- a) produce the vehicle licence on request to any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or a Police Officer;
- b) permit the Licensing Authority to photocopy or otherwise deal with any document produced as evidence to support the application for renewal of the licence or enforcement of licence conditions.

20. A licensee who permits or employs any person to act as the driver of the private hire vehicle shall retain in his or her possession the licence of such driver while the driver is permitted or employed to drive the vehicle.

#### **Conduct of Business**

21. The private hire vehicle must at all times be registered with an operator who holds a Private Hire Operator's Licence with Maldon District Council.

22. Whilst a vehicle is being used as a private hire vehicle, it shall not be driven by anyone other than a driver licensed by the Licensing Authority as a private hire driver or a dual hackney carriage / private hire driver who must at all times wear the official badge as required by the conditions of their Driver's Licence.

23. The vehicle shall not be permitted to carry more than the number of persons specified on the Licence, irrespective of the age of the passenger.

24. The vehicle shall not be used as a private hire vehicle whilst towing a trailer or whilst fitted with a roof box without the express consent of the Licensing Authority who may call for an additional inspection certificate.

25. Any trailer authorised by the Licensing Authority for use with a licensed vehicle will, at all times, be fitted with a suitable spare wheel and be fitted with a Licence Plate issued by the Licensing Authority.

26. A daily record of the mileage covered by each licensed driver and the time and condition of the vehicle at handover shall be kept in the private hire vehicle. The record shall be kept for twelve months and must be produced on the request of an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or a Police Officer.

27. If drivers are unable to accept cheques, debit card or credit card payments, customers should be advised on pre-booking and a clear notice to that effect must be displayed and clearly visible to passengers and potential passengers.

## **Renewal**

28. This licence must be renewed annually.

## **Notes to Accompany the Conditions**

1. These conditions apply to vehicles licensed as private hire vehicles after 1 April 2010.
2. In relation to condition 2, permanent exemptions may be granted in the case of vintage vehicles or specialist hire.

## **Licence Conditions for Private Hire Operators**

The following conditions apply to all Private Hire Operator Licences issued by Maldon District Council.

1. A private hire operator shall keep a record of the particulars of all private hire vehicles operated under this licence in the form of a book or in electronic form containing the following.
  - a. Type and make of vehicle
  - b. Vehicle registration number
  - c. Owner's name and address
  - d. Driver's name and address
  - e. Private Hire Vehicle Licence number as issued by the Licensing Authority
2. A private hire operator shall keep a record of every booking of a private hire vehicle, invited or accepted, in the form of a book or electronic record containing the following.
  - a. The date and time of every booking made
  - b. The date and time hiring to commence
  - c. Destination
  - d. Address at which hiring to commence
  - e. Name of hirer
  - f. Name of driver or Private Hire Driver Licence number
  - g. Private hire vehicle number or vehicle registrationAll information in the book shall be completed before the commencement of any journey.
3. All records in conditions 1 and 2 above must:-
  - be kept for not less than twelve months from the date of the last entry;
  - be produced on request to any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or Police Officer for inspection and may be copied as required;
  - in the case of electronic records, be kept in a format that can be reproduced for inspection.
4. The operator shall within seven days disclose to the Licensing Authority, in writing, any arrest, conviction, fixed penalty or caution, whether for a driving offence or otherwise, imposed on him or her or any person concerned in the operation of private hire vehicles in relation to this licence.
5. A private hire operator must notify the Licensing Authority within seven days of any change of either his / her address or the address of the operating premises during the period of the Licence.
6. It shall be made clear in any trade description or advertising material used by the operator that the service is a private hire vehicle service and the use of the words 'TAXI', 'CAB' or 'FOR HIRE' is expressly prohibited.
7. A private hire vehicle operator shall take all proper and reasonable steps to ensure that all private hire vehicles which he or she operates, and all drivers who he or she employs, also comply with licensing conditions and other relevant statutory provisions or byelaws.
8. Reference to Maldon District Council in any advertisement for the service must be limited to the phrase 'Licensed by Maldon District Council' and must not suggest any other form of approval or endorsement by the Council.



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