



Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Inspection Standards

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1 Introduction

1.1 Manual of Inspection

This manual sets out the procedures and minimum vehicle inspection standards for those who carry out inspections of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The manual is available to proprietors, operators and drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles as it details the standards that vehicles are subjected to. The guide also explains the reasons why a vehicle presented for inspection may not have been issued with a pass certificate.

This manual has been developed from a best practice guide produced by the Department for Transport (DfT) Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Inspection Technical Officer Group (TOG). Various interested parties, including the Department for Transport (DfT), Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) and the Institute of Licensing were consulted on the Best Practice Guide developed by TOG.

1.2 Technical Safety Issues

The aim of the Council is to protect the public: the public should have access to safe and well-maintained hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. It is important that passengers feel confident that the vehicle is safe. The manual focuses, therefore, on technical safety issues and safe working practices based on local requirements and expected standards.

1.3 Scope of the Guidance

This manual deliberately seeks to embrace safety aspects of vehicle inspections using, as a basic inspection standard, those laid down in 'The MOT Inspection Manual for Car and Light Commercial Vehicle Testing' issued by VOSA. This manual provides additional testing requirements to those in the MOT Inspection Manual. In exercising its licensing function, Maldon District will use the manual in conjunction with the VOSA MOT Inspection Manual as an advocate to public safety.

1.4 Specification of Vehicles Types that may be Licensed

The legislation gives the Council discretion over the types of vehicle that they can license as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles.

1.5 Accessibility

The Council designates vehicles which are deemed to be wheelchair accessible under Section 167 of the Equality Act 2010. For more information, see the Council's website and Policy.

1.6 Type Approval

From time to time, the Council will be asked to license a vehicle that has been imported independently (by somebody other than the manufacturer). Such vehicles will be subject to the 'type approval' rules. This means meeting the technical standards of either: -

European Whole Vehicle type approval;
British National Type Approval; or
British Single Vehicle Approval (before 29 April 2009); or
Individual Vehicle Approval (from 29 April 2009)

Most registration certificates issued since late 1998 should indicate the approval status of the vehicle. Further information about these requirements and the procedures for licensing and registering imported vehicles can be seen at: www.dft.gov.uk

The Council insists that at least one of the above 'type approvals' is produced prior to any imported vehicle being licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

Voluntary Inspections

Vehicles that are already registered for use in the UK are not eligible for a Single Vehicle Approval, however, there are situations where evidence of compliance with the approval standard would be beneficial or a requirement. The Council may require evidence of compliance for a vehicle that has been modified since original registration or where evidence of compliance is being used as part of a contractual agreement on a modified vehicle. To facilitate this requirement, a non-statutory "Voluntary SVA" or "Voluntary IVA" test is available. The test criteria applied will be dependent on the vehicle category/class nominated on the application form VSVA 1. The fees are the same as those appropriate to the class of vehicle/test carried other than VAT is payable. If the vehicle is found to meet the requirements, a letter of compliance with the technical standards will be issued and not a Minister's Approval certificate. The letter of compliance is not acceptable for first licensing/registration purposes.

1.7 Vehicle Testing

Hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are used for hire and reward and as such are normally subject to much higher annual mileages and more arduous driving than normal private vehicles. In the interests of passenger and other road user's safety, therefore, a more stringent maintenance and testing regime is required.

The purpose of testing is to confirm that vehicles meet these more stringent standards. Vehicles must be submitted fully prepared for the test. It is not intended that the test be used in lieu of a regular preventative maintenance programme. If, in the opinion of the vehicle examiner, the vehicle has not been fully prepared, the test will be terminated and a further full test will be required.

It is an offence under the road traffic regulations to use an unroadworthy vehicle on the public highway.

Hackney carriage and private hire operators failing to maintain their vehicles in a safe and roadworthy condition may have their licence suspended, revoked or refused.

This manual provides a working document for those who inspect, maintain and prepare vehicles for inspection prior to being issued with a hackney carriage or private hire licence. Although detailed in its content the manual is not exhaustive.

In assessing the mechanical condition of a vehicle, it is more likely an item which would ordinarily pass a MOT test with an advisory note, could fail the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle test.

2 Stretch Limousines

This section of the manual sets out guidance for licensing stretch limousines. The standard of the test for stretch limousines will be at the same standard as for other private hire vehicles. As a basic inspection standard, those laid down in 'The MOT Inspection Manual for Car and Light Commercial Vehicle Testing' issued by VOSA and this manual. A stretch limousine shall only be registered as a private hire vehicle if it complies with the following conditions.

- Vehicles with no more than 8 passenger seats as indicated on the V5C. The V5C will state the number of seats and must be produced to the Council prior to the vehicle being licensed or inspected. If the number of seats differs from what is indicated on the V5C, then contact will be made with VOSA and the local area Traffic Commissioner immediately. Failure to produce a valid and current V5C for the vehicle to be tested could result in refusal to inspect the vehicle.
- As stretch limousines are not factory produced, a vehicle maintenance inspection by the keeper of the vehicle should be undertaken every 10 weeks, as recommended by Traffic Commissioners, VOSA and the National Limousine and Chauffeur Association (NLCA).
- The inspection standards to be applied to the stretch limousines are the same standards as those applied to other hackney carriage and private hire vehicles with the following additions.
 - Any additional item previously mentioned in this paragraph about seating capacity, the production of the relevant documents and frequency of vehicle inspections.
 - See Section 4 – Tyres and roadwheels. Reference in this section is made to tyre rating to be applied to stretch limousines.
 - See Section 12 – Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). VIN markings should be checked to ensure compliance, seating capacities and undue stresses.

The Council will seek to obtain a declaration from the operator of licensed stretch limousines that the vehicles with side facing seats will never be used to carry passengers under 16 years of age, **regardless of whether the vehicle is fitted with seatbelts or not.**

The Council will also look for notices forbidding children to be carried in side facing seats to be displayed in prominent positions, i.e. on entry to the passenger compartment and on either side of the passenger compartment.

3 General Information

Only vehicles complying with the following conditions will generally be considered for licensing as private hire vehicles.

Cars fitted with at least four doors and four wheels

Right-hand drive vehicles – except for stretch limousines (where applicable)

Vehicles with adequate space for luggage

Vehicles must be capable of carrying at least four and not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver

Except for stretch limousines, vehicles will not be accepted with blacked out windows. Passengers being carried in the vehicle must be visible from the outside. In exceptional circumstances, tinted windows may be acceptable.

To allow a thorough examination of a vehicle or any part thereof, it must be presented for test in a clean condition. The vehicle presented will fail the test if, in the opinion of the vehicle examiner, the vehicle is so dirty that it would be unreasonable for the test to be carried out.

Statement of Undertakings and Declaration

In the interests of road and passenger safety, the licensed operator undertakes to make proper arrangements so that vehicles are always kept in a roadworthy condition.

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SECTION 1 – Lighting and Signaling Equipment

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Sub-Section	Subject
1.1	Stop Lamps – High Level Stop Lamps
1.2	Electrical Wiring and Equipment
1.3	Additional Lamps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reversing Lamps• Front Fog/Driving Lamps• For Hire and Roof Signs

1.1 Stop Lamps – High Level Stop Lamps

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Any additional stop lamps fitted and connected must be tested. Where high level stop lamps are fitted and there is doubt as to whether they are connected, the benefit of this doubt should be given to the presenter.</p> <p>Check the high-level stop lamp where fitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is not obscured and is not obviously incorrectly positioned b. at least 50% of the lamp must be visible from the rear 	<p>High level stop lamp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. obscured or obviously incorrectly positioned b. less than 50% of the lamp not working or obscured

1.2 Electrical Wiring and Equipment

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>This examination is limited to that part of the electrical system that can be readily seen without dismantling any part of the vehicle.</p> <p>a. Check all electrical wiring for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ condition ○ security ○ position ○ signs of overheating ○ heavy oil contamination <p>b. Battery and carrier for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ security ○ battery for leaks <p>c. Check all switches controlling all obligatory lights</p>	<p>a. Wiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ not adequately insulated ○ not adequately secured ○ positioned so that it is chafing or clipped to a fuel line or likely to be damaged by heat so that insulation will become ineffective. ○ with clear evidence of overheating ○ heavily contaminated with oil <p>b. Battery and carrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a battery and/or carrier not secure and likely to become displaced ○ battery leaking <p>c. Insecurity or malfunction of a switch controlling an obligatory light</p>

1.3 Additional Lamps

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>With the ignition switched on, check that:</p> <p>Reversing lamps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the reversing lamps emit a diffused white light when reverse gear is selected b. the lamps extinguish when neutral gear is selected c. the lamps are in good working order and are secure d. the lamps do not flicker when lightly tapped by hand <p>Front fog/driving lamps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. a single front fog lamp emitting a white or yellow diffused light illuminates only when dipped beam is selected f. a pair of matched fog lamps both emitting a white or yellow diffused light should illuminate together g. a pair of matched, long-range driving lamps, both emitting a white diffused light should illuminate together 	<p>A reversing lamp that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. fails to operate or does not emit a white diffused light b. fails to extinguish when neutral or forward gear is selected c. is not in good working order or insecure d. flickers when tapped lightly by hand <p>Front fog/driving lamps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. inoperative or operates other than in dipped beam mode f. operate incorrectly g. operate incorrectly

1.3 Additional Lamps

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>'For Hire' and Roof Signs</p> <p>Check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. correct style and type of sign fittedb. ensure the sign is securely fastened to the vehiclec. check condition and security of wiringd. functional test of signs for illumination	<p>'For Hire' and Roof Signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Incorrect colour or details shown on sign, i.e. registration number, vehicle number, etc.b. Insecure signc. Wiring is not in good condition, is loose or chafedd. Illumination not consistent across the sign, i.e. all light bulb(s), LED(s) illuminated when switched on

SECTION 2 – Steering

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
2.1	Steering Control – Steering Wheel
2.2	Steering Control – Steering Column
2.3	Suspension Spring Units and Linkages

2.1 Steering Control – Steering Wheel

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>With both hands, rock the steering wheel from side to side at right angles to steering column and apply slight downward and upward pressure to the steering wheel rim (in line with column).</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. fractures in steering wheel hub b. fractures in steering wheel rim c. steering wheel spokes loose or fractured d. jagged edges on steering wheel rim e. if possible, check the retaining device on steering wheel is fitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Steering wheel hub fractured b. Steering wheel rim fractured c. A steering wheel spoke loose or fractured d. Jagged edges on steering wheel rim likely to injure the driver e. A steering wheel hub-retaining device not fitted

2.2 Steering Control – Steering Column

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>a. Try to lift the steering in line with the steering column and note the movement at centre of steering wheel</p> <p>b. Push steering wheel away and then pull it towards you, note any side play</p> <p>c. While steering wheel is rotated, check for deterioration in any flexible coupling or universal joint of steering column</p> <p>d. Where practical, check any clamp bolts for presence and security of locking devices (these may be in the engine compartment or under chassis)</p>	<p>a. Excessive movement of centre of steering wheel in line with steering column (end float)</p> <p>Note: certain types of steering column might show some movement not due to excessive wear, e.g. those fitted with universal joints or flexible couplings.</p> <p>b. Excessive side play indicating worn top bearings or insecure top mounting bracket</p> <p>c. A flexible coupling or universal joint deteriorated, worn or insecure</p> <p>d. A coupling clamp bolt or locking device loose or missing</p>

³ **2.3 Suspension Spring Units and Linkages**

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
Coil Springs a. Welding repairs	a. Repaired by welding

SECTION 3 – Brakes

Section Contents

Sub-Section

No additional inspection requirements

SECTION 4 – Tyres and Roadwheels

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Sub-Section	Subject
4.1	Tyres – Condition

4.1 Tyres

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>On all the tyres, including spare wheel (where fitted), ensure each tyre meets all requirements laid down in the MOT Inspection Manual for Car and Light Commercial Vehicles (ISBN 0-9549239-0-1) - except that the standard in that MOT manual concerning 1.6mm tread shall be read as being not less than 2mm.</p> <p>Note 1 Where a doughnut tank is fitted in the boot for LPG, the spare wheel if still carried in the boot must be properly secured. Alternatively, a spare wheel cage installed to manufacturer's and British Standards may be fitted to the underside of the vehicle.</p> <p>Note 3 Tyres shall not be older than 5yrs (including spare tyre)</p>	<p>Not in accordance with the MOT Inspection Manual for Car and Light Commercial Vehicles (ISBN 0-9549239-0-1) or if the tread is less than 2 mm.</p> <p>Note 2 Spare tyres shall be minimum space saving wheels or run flat unless otherwise agreed with the Council as being unachievable due to the manufacturer's original design feature.</p> <p>Note 4 Tyres shall not be fitted as 'part-worn' tyres</p>

SECTION 5 – Seat Belts

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Sub-Section

No additional inspection requirements

SECTION 6 – Body and Structure

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Sub-Section	Subject
6.1	Body and Condition (Exterior)
6.2	Body, Security and Condition (Interior)
6.3	Doors and Seats
6.4	Bumper Bars (Specialty Vehicles only)

6.1 Body and Condition (Exterior)

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Examine the body thoroughly for security, corrosion, damage, poor repair/paint match or sharp edges that are likely to cause injury.</p> <p>The view as to whether damage is considered dangerous or unsafe will ultimately be that of the vehicle examiner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An insecure or missing body panel, trim, step or accessory b. Any sharp edge whatsoever which may cause injury c. Heavy scuffing, abrasions or deformation to front and rear bumper d. A single dent of more than 80mm, or more than 3 dents of not more than 20mm in any one panel that has not been caused other than as a result of a road traffic collision (e.g. trolley damage) e. Lack of clear (not faded) or omission of 'No Smoking' or wheelchair (where applicable) signs

6.1 Body and Condition (Exterior)

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Roof Sign a. Appropriate roof sign in place</p> <p>Door Sign (Stickers) b. Appropriate door sign in place</p> <p>Licence Plates c. Appropriate licence plates fitted</p>	<p>a. Roof sign not present or damaged or displaying incorrect information</p> <p>b. Door sign damaged or not present or attached with magnetic stickers (except if new plate in which case check sheet should be marked NP to indicate door sign was not checked). Sticker must be placed centrally within the upper half of front door panel.</p> <p>c. Licence plates not affixed or damaged to exterior (except if new plates, in which case check sheet should be marked NP to indicate licence plate was not checked).</p>

6.2 Body, Security and Condition (Interior)

Method of Inspection	Reasons for Rejection
<p>Examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. interior fixtures, fittings or accessories and accessories b. trim, carpets, seat belts, mats, headlining and boot (remove mats to inspect carpets underneath for cleanliness and wear) c. seats, seat coverings (where fitted), upholstery and trims d. interior lights, motion door locks and warning lights e. heating, demisting and air condition systems for correct operation, including passenger compartment controls where fitted (includes electric front and rear screen demisters) f. windows to ensure they lower and rise easily g. interior door locks, grab handles/rails, safety covers h. grills/partitions for security and condition i. electrical wiring for condition, security (including intercom systems) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Damaged, insecure and loose fixtures, fittings or accessories b. Missing, dirty, soiled, stained, worn or insecure trim, carpets, seatbelts, mats, headlining or boot c. Seats, covering, upholstery and trims not clean, in good condition or state of repair (e.g. large cut, tear over 2cm unacceptable) d. An inoperative interior light (all lights must illuminate if they are part of the manufacturer's standard equipment). Missing or defective motion switch/lock or warning lamp not illuminated. e. A system does not function correctly or any part is missing (including vents, controls and switches) f. An opening window that is inoperative or difficult to open and/or close, mechanism broken/missing g. Missing, defective or loose door locks, child locks, protective covers, grab handles/rails (grab handles/rails which are rigid to aid the blind and partially sighted and are worn to excess) h. A grill/partition which is insecure or has sharp edges which may cause injury to passengers or driver i. Frayed, chafing wiring, non-shielded terminals or cables so routed that they cause a trip hazard, cables that can be easily disconnected (intercom system defective, warning light inoperative and signs illegible/missing)

6.2 Body, Security and Condition (Interior)

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>j. boot for access, contents, cleanliness and water ingress</p> <p>Additional items to be inspected in limousines and novelty vehicles:</p> <p>k. all fixtures and fittings (e.g. mirror balls, drinks cabinets, televisions, etc.) must be stored securely and not hinder the ingress or egress from the passenger compartment</p> <p>l. a notice identifying the maximum seating capacity to be displayed in the passenger compartment and clearly visible to all passengers (it may be necessary to display more than one sign indicating the maximum seating capacity)</p> <p>Note: any vehicle presented in a dirty, untidy condition must not be tested</p>	<p>j. Unable to open, close and/or lock boot lid, failure of boot lid support mechanism, defective seals/evidence of water ingress, dirty boot and/or carpets, loose items stored in boot (i.e. spare wheel, tools and equipment, etc.)</p> <p>k. Any fixture or fitting that is loose or insecure or where walkways are blocked that prevents ease of ingress or egress from the passenger compartment</p> <p>l. No maximum seating capacity sign or signs displayed, a sign or signs not clearly visible to all passengers</p>

6.3 Doors and Seats

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Doors and Emergency Exits</p> <p>Examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. condition of all doors and emergency exits; check door locks, striker plates, handles and hinges for security, wear and missing and damaged trim/cover plates <p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. markings describing the presence and method of opening emergency exit(s) are readily visible on or adjacent to the exit and are legible c. seats are secure, clean and not unduly worn <p>NOTE: except for 'novelty vehicles', only vehicles with forward and rear facing seats will be accepted</p>	<p>Doors and Emergency Exits</p> <p>A door of emergency exit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. does not latch securely in the closed position cannot be opened from both the inside and outside the vehicle from the relevant control in each case Missing, loose or worn handles, lock or striker plate Missing, loose or damaged trim/cover plate b. Markings describing the presence and method of opening an emergency exit missing, illegible or incorrect c. Seat cushion(s) stained, torn, holed, worn or insecure A seat that does not provide adequate support at base or backrest Badly stained seats or seats with large cuts or tears of 2cm or longer are not acceptable

6.3 Doors and Seats

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Accessibility: Wheelchair Vehicles</p> <p>Door configurations for wheelchair accessible vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. single rear door – must open to a minimum of 90 degrees and be capable of locking in placeb. twin rear doors – both must open to a minimum of 180 degrees and be capable of being locked in place - this is to enable an attendant (driver or guide) to assist the wheelchair passenger if required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Door does not open to a full 90 degrees and cannot be secured in the open positionb. Twin doors do not open to a full 180 degrees and cannot be secured in the open position

6.4 Bumper Bars (Specialty Vehicles only)

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Examine the bumper bars and check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. they are secure to their mountings b. the mountings are secure to the vehicle c. there is no evidence of damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A loose bumper bar or mounting, weakened bumper bar and/or mounting is insecure because of poor repairs b. A fractured mounting bracket, mounting bolts so worn or elongated that the bumper bar is likely to detach partially or completely from the vehicle when in use A bumper bar is secured by wire or other temporary means c. Bumper bars which have jagged edges, cracks or splits or projections which may cause injury to persons near the vehicle Paint mismatch or fading which is significantly different to that of the rest of the paintwork

SECTION 7 – Fuel and Emissions

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
7.1	Exhaust System
7.2	Fuel System – Pipes and Tanks

7.1 Exhaust System

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
Where applicable, check for presence, security and adequacy of grease shields to hot exhausts	A heat shield missing, insecure or inadequate

7.2 Fuel System – Pipes and Tanks

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. fuel tank(s) for security and leaks b. pipes to see they are securely clipped to prevent damage by chafing and cracking and are not in a position where they will be fouled by moving parts <p>Check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. fuel tank filler caps are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ present ○ of the correct type ○ secure and sealed properly to ensure correct function of sealing d. no fuel pipe runs immediately adjacent to or in direct contact with electrical wiring or the exhaust system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fuel tank insecure or leaking b. Damaged, chafed, insecure pipes, or pipes so positioned that there is a danger of them fouling moving parts c. A filler cap missing, unsuitable or in such condition that it would not prevent fuel leaking or spilling <p>Note: temporary/emergency fuel caps are not permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. A fuel pipe immediately to or in direct contact with electrical wiring or exhaust system

SECTION 8 – Drivers View of the Road

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
8.1	Mirrors
8.2	Windscreen – View to the Front
8.3	Window Glass or Other Transparent Material

8.1 Mirrors

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>The number and position of all obligatory mirrors must be checked</p> <p>Check:</p> <p>a. condition of each mirror reflecting surface and whether a person sitting in the driver's seat can see clearly to the rear</p>	<p>Note: a defective additional external mirror is not a reason for rejection</p> <p>a. Mirror condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a mirror reflecting surface deteriorated or broken○ in such a position that a person sitting in the driver's seat cannot see clearly to the rear

8.2 Windscreen – View to the Front

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Sit in the driver's seat and check that there is reasonable view of the road ahead, bearing in mind the original design of the vehicle.</p> <p>a. For all air operated wipers, examine the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ condition of any visible piping ○ function of the operating mechanism ○ function of necessary valves to protect the braking system <p>Note: equipment or objects not originally fitted to the vehicle as part of the original design must not obstruct the forward view of the driver. Objects such as (but not limited to) pendants, cab decorations and external stone guards/visors should not interrupt the view through the swept area by the windscreen wipers.</p>	<p>The position or size of any object restricts the driver's view of the road ahead, bearing in mind the original design of the vehicle.</p> <p>b. Air operated wipers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pipes inadequately clipped or supported ○ incorrect function of the wipers or leaking components ○ incorrect operation of protection valves

8.3 Window Glass or Other Transparent Material

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the condition of all windscreens, internal screens, partitions, side, rear, roof and door windows for cracks, surface damage and discolouration b. presence and security of all windscreens, side, roof or rear windows or internal screens or partitions c. for evidence of obvious leaks from all windscreens and side, rear, roof or door windows d. for presence, security and condition of guard rails or barriers at windows, internal screens or partitions e. as far as practicable for all vehicles first used before 1 January 1959 that glass fitted to windscreens and outside windows facing to the front is safety glass f. as far as practicable for all vehicles used on or after 1 January 1959 that glass used for windscreens and all outside windows is safety glass or safety glazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A crack, surface damage or discolouration in glass or other transparent material that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ impairs the driver's front, side or rear view of the road or ○ presents a danger to any person in the vehicle b. A windscreen or any other outside window missing or any windscreen, window, internal screen or partition insecure c. An external window or windscreen is obviously leaking d. A guard rail or barrier at a window, internal screen or partition missing, insecure or damaged e. The windscreen and/or any outside window facing to the front of a vehicle obviously not safety glass fitted to a vehicle first used before 1 January 1959 f. Glass used for a windscreen or an outside window is obviously not safety glass

8.3 Window Glass or Other Transparent Material

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
g. for vehicles first used on or after 1 June 1978, windscreens or other windows, wholly or partly, on either side of the driver's seat are made from safety glass displaying an acceptable safety mark	g. For vehicles first used on or after 1 June 1978, windscreens and/or other windows wholly or partly on either side of the driver's seat that are not made from safety glass display an acceptable safety mark
h. windscreens and front passenger and driver side windows have a visual light transmission throughout of 75% and 70% or higher respectively	h. Visual light transmission readings are below those stated
i. windows other than those in h. above have a visual light transmission reading throughout of 32% or higher	i. Visual light transmission readings are below those stated

SECTION 9 – Tricycles and Quadricycles (if specialty vehicle)

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
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No additional inspection requirements	
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SECTION 10 – Additional Requirements

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- 10.1 Speedometer**
- 10.2 Transmission**
- 10.3 Engine and Transmission Mountings**
- 10.4 Oil and Water Leaks**
- 10.5 Luggage/Load Space**
- 10.6 Trailers and Tow Bars**

10.1 Speedometer

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. that a speedometer is fittedb. the condition of the speedometerc. the speedometer can be illuminated	<p>Speedometer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. not fittedb. not complete, clearly inoperative, dial glass broken or missingc. cannot be illuminated

10.2 Transmission

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Examine transmission, check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. missing or loose flange bolts b. cracked or insecure flanges c. wear in shaft and/or wheel bearings d. security of bearing housings e. cracks or fractures in bearing housings f. wear in universal joints g. deterioration of flexible couplings h. distorted, damaged shafts i. deterioration of bearing housing flexible mountings j. clearance between transmission shafts and adjacent components 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A loose or missing flange bolt(s) b. A flange cracked or loose on the transmission shaft c. Excessive wear in shaft bearing d. A bearing housing insecure to its fixing e. A cracked or fractured bearing housing f. Excessive wear in a universal joint g. Deterioration of a transmission shaft flexible coupling h. A damaged, cracked or bent shaft i. Deterioration of a flexible mounting of a bearing housing j. Evidence of fouling between any transmission shaft and an adjacent component

10.2 Transmission

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Front Wheel Drive</p> <p>a. Check the drive shaft inner and outer universal joint couplings and constant velocity joints for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ wear and security ○ damage to flexible rubber or fabric universal joints ○ security and oil contamination of flexible rubber or fabric universal joints ○ condition, presence and security of constant velocity joint gaiters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drive shaft constant velocity or universal joint coupling worn or insecure ○ A flexible rubber or fabric universal coupling unit damaged by severe cracking or breaking up ○ A flexible rubber or fabric universal coupling unit excessively softened by oil contamination or insecure ○ A drive shaft constant velocity joint gaiter split, missing or insecurely mounted

10.3 Engine and Transmission Mountings

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>a. Examine condition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ mountings ○ sub-frames <p>and</p> <p>b. the security to chassis and check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fractures ○ looseness ○ deterioration 	<p>} } } } } } } } } } } } } }</p> <p>Any mounting or sub-frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loose - fractured - deteriorated - inappropriate repair

10.4 Oil and Water Leaks

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. vehicle for oil and water leaks from any assembly or component to the ground b. and/or which could be deposited on surrounding bodywork or onto the exhaust system <p>Note: if necessary, the engine can be run at idle speed to confirm the existence of an oil leak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An oil or water leak, from any assembly, which deposits fluids underneath the vehicle whilst stationary b. Leaks which, when the vehicle is moving, could be deposited upon the surrounding bodywork, exhaust and brake system so that it would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contaminate areas ○ could potentially cause a health, safety or fire risk.

10.5 Luggage/Load Space

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Physical separation is not so much an issue as is the safety of passengers in the event of an accident. The luggage should, therefore, be secure and prevented from becoming dislodged in an accident in such a manner as may cause injury. Such security can be by means of a sheet or net which could be anchored to the floor of the luggage area. Clearly, if the luggage compartment is not physically separated from the passenger compartment, then care will need to be taken so as not to carry any hazardous items such as fuel cans, detergents or other loose items that could leak if they become damaged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Load restraint system, if required, not present at time of test○ Load restraint system faulty or unserviceable

10.6 Trailers and Tow Bars

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Trailers</p> <p>a. Where the Council permits the use of trailers for the carriage of luggage, then the trailer needs to be presented for test along with the vehicle that is authorised to tow it. The trailer will also need to display the appropriate registration plate and a licence plate.</p> <p>Note: trailers presented for inspection should be built by an approved or recognised trailer manufacturer.</p> <p>Tow bars</p> <p>b. Where tow bars are fitted, checks must be made on the condition and security to the towing vehicle.</p>	

SECTION 11 – Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) and Ancillary Equipment

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
11.1	Wheelchair Restraint and Access Equipment
11.2	Fire Extinguisher
11.3	First Aid Kit

11.1 Wheelchair Restraint and Access Equipment

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Wheelchair Restraint</p> <p>a. Where applicable, check condition and operation of wheelchair restraint.</p> <p>b. A system for the effective anchoring of wheelchairs shall be provided within the vehicle in all spaces designated as wheelchair spaces</p> <p>Wheelchair Access and Equipment</p> <p>A vehicle shall be fitted with either of the following forms of wheelchair access equipment.</p> <p>Ramps</p> <p>c. Check that appropriate ramps fitted are securely installed in the designated storage area. Examine for damage, deformity, sharp edges etc. and provision of anti-slip covering.</p> <p>Wheelchair Lift</p> <p>d. A purpose designed wheelchair lift shall conform to the LOLER Regulations. A report, confirming that the lifting equipment is safe to use, shall be presented at the time of the vehicle inspection. Vehicles presented for inspection with a wheelchair lift will require a LOLER certificate that is valid for a period of six months from the date of issue.</p> <p>Note: passenger lifting equipment will need to be thoroughly examined by a competent person at least once every six months</p>	<p>a. A wheelchair restraint is defective, worn or missing</p> <p>b. Wheelchair anchorage systems and devices do not conform to European Directive 76/115 EEC (as amended by 90/629 EEC)</p> <p>c. Ramps missing, insecurely stored, damaged/deformed, anti-slip covering in poor condition or missing</p> <p>d. Vehicle not presented with valid or current LOLER certificate</p>

11.1 Wheelchair Restraint and Access Equipment

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>e. Any purpose designed wheelchair access ramp that is carried must be lightweight and easy to deploy. The installed ramp shall have visible reference to safe working load of 250kgs and certified to BS 6109.</p>	<p>e. The installed ramp does not have any visible reference to a maximum safe working load or certification to BS 6109.</p>
<p>f. Wheelchair access equipment shall be fitted either into the rear or side access door of the vehicle. Where it is fitted to a side door this shall be the door situated on the nearside of the vehicle, i.e. kerbside when stopped in a normal road.</p>	<p>f. Wheelchair access equipment is fitted to the off-side access door of the vehicle.</p>
<p>g. The aperture of the door into which the access equipment is fitted shall have minimum clear headroom in its central third of 48 inches (1220mm). The measurement shall be taken from the upper centre of the aperture to a point directly below on either the upper face of the fully raised lift platform, or the upper face of the ramp fully deployed on level ground. The minimum width of the aperture of the doorway should also be 750mm wide and 800mm height (notwithstanding the required minimum headroom in the centre).</p>	<p>g. There is not clear headroom in the aperture within the central third of 48 inches (1220mm).</p>
<p>h. The space in which the passenger in a wheelchair is to be accommodated should have a minimum of 1200mm by 700mm and headroom of 1400mm.</p>	
<p>i. A locking mechanism shall be fitted that holds the access door in the open position whilst in use.</p>	<p>i. No evidence of suitable locking mechanism to hold the door open.</p>

11.1 Wheelchair Restraint and Access Equipment

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>All wheelchair tracking must be fit for purpose and structurally sound.</p> <p>Wheelchair passengers should travel facing forwards or backwards only.</p> <p>Further information on disabled people's transport is available from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) website opposite.</p>	<p>Damaged or insecure tracking or detritus deposits within the tracking rails.</p> <p>www.dptac.gov.uk</p>

11.2 Fire Extinguisher

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>a. Check the fire extinguisher for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ expiry date ○ seal ○ type – water, CO₂, foam or dry powder ○ approved mark – ISO 7165 <p>b. The fire extinguisher must be kept in an accessible position inside the vehicle. The extinguisher may be carried out of view, i.e. in a fastened glove compartment provided there is a clear sign on the dashboard stating the location.</p>	<p>a. A fire extinguisher is missing or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ out of date ○ broken or missing seal ○ no approved marking visible or other non-approved marking shown ○ gauge shows as empty <p>b. Not fitted in an accessible position or its position is not clearly marked</p>

11.3 First Aid Kit

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. there is a first aid kit, expiry date and seals intactb. that is in an accessible position inside the vehicle. The first aid kit may be carried out of view, i.e. in a fastened glove compartment provided there is a clear sign on the dashboard, stating the location.	<p>The first aid kit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. missing, out of date, broken or seals have been brokenb. not fitted in an accessible position or its position is not clearly marked

SECTION 12 – Stretch Limousines

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
12.1	Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
12.2	Seating Capacity
12.3	Undue Stresses
12.4	Passenger Notices

12.1 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) should be checked to ensure it complies with the guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. for vehicles constructed from 1998 onwards, the VIN should begin with ILIb. pre-1998 vehicles, VIN should begin with ILMc. if a VIN begins with ILN or anything other, then this is likely to be a non-approved ('cut-and-shut') modification	<p>Inappropriate VIN markings displayed or no VIN markings present</p>

12.2 Seating Capacity

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
It is strongly recommended that prior to the inspection of a novelty vehicle, the inspector checks the seating capacity on the V5C to ensure it does not exceed 8 passenger seats.	If the V5C states more than 8 passengers, then this vehicle MUST NOT be tested or licensed as a private hire vehicle. The vehicle should be referred to VOSA for licensing as a passenger carrying vehicle (PCV).

12.3 Undue Stresses

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
Vehicle inspectors should be aware of undue stresses caused to the steering, brakes and tyres due to the additional weight imposed on the vehicle at the modification process.	Tolerances and wear should be as defined in the VOSA Car and Light Commercial Vehicle Testing Manual as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ steering - Section 2○ brakes - Section 3○ tyres - Section 4

12.4 Passenger Notices

Declaration

Vehicles with side facing seats not to be used to carry passengers under 16 years of age, **regardless of whether the vehicle is fitted with or without seatbelts.**

Passenger Notices

- I. In addition, notices forbidding children to be carried in side facing seats must be displayed in prominent positions, i.e. on entry to the passenger compartment and on the inside of the vehicle on either side of the passenger compartment.
- II. Further notices should be displayed inside the vehicle, where all passengers can clearly read the notice, advising passengers of the maximum carrying capacity of the vehicle and a warning to passengers that should the capacity be exceeded then the vehicle will not be insured.

SECTION 13 – Driver Protection Screens and CCTV

Section Contents

Sub-Section	Subject
13.1	Driver Protection Screens
13.2	CCTV

13.1 Driver Protection Screens

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>Driver protection screens are not a mandatory requirement in either hackney carriages or private hire vehicles, but, where they are fitted, the screen, fittings and installation and must comply with relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN ECE/EU type approval • Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 • Millbrook or MIRA product assessment <p>Contact:</p> <p>Millbrook: info@millbrook.co.uk or www.millbrook.co.uk/contact MIRA: salesfrontoffice@horiba-mira.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fails to meet the approval requirement b. Not installed to manufacturer's recommendations, without excess gaps between screen and vehicle interior. c. Not of suitable material (not rigid to UN ECE R43 standard) d. Screen impedes vision, movement or communication with passenger e. Screen impedes driver or passengers' entry and egress from vehicle f. Fixtures or fittings present a potential hazard to occupants g. Millbrook or MIRA evidence of approval unavailable h. Installation negatively affects a vehicle safety system (e.g. airbags) <p>Notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licence holders must inform their insurers of any modifications 2. Vehicle inspection reports will identify if tested with or without a driver protection screen. Only those inspected and assessed will be approved by the Council.

13.2 CCTV

Method of Inspection	Reason for Rejection
<p>If fitted, check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. if adequate signage is displayed in the vehicle passenger area advising that they are being monitored and recorded either visually, audibly or bothb. associated equipment is maintained and in working order, fitted overtly and in such a way that it does not present a safety hazard to passengers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Inadequate signage advising passengers of being visually/audibly recordedb. Not in working order or fitted in such a manner as to present a hazard to any occupant

Notes

The inspection of this vehicle is based on the best practice guide 'Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle National inspection standards' and Maldon District Council's licensing and pre-licensing conditions. The purpose is to assess the vehicle's suitability for licensing or continued licensing as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

The aim of the licensing regime is to ensure the safety of passengers and other road users. The public should have reasonable access to safe and well-maintained hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

Please note the following

All hackney carriages and private hire vehicles must be maintained to no less than the standards set out in the VOSA publication 'MOT inspection Manual – car and light commercial'. HC and PHVs are subject to much higher annual mileages and more arduous driving than normal private vehicles. Therefore, in the interests of passenger and other road users' safety, a more stringent maintenance and testing regime is required

The purpose of this vehicle inspection is to confirm that it meets these more stringent standards.

In assessing the mechanical condition of a vehicle, it is more likely an item which would ordinarily pass a MOT test with an advisory note, could fail a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle test.

Vehicles must be submitted fully prepared for the test-

It is not intended that the test be used in lieu of a regular preventative maintenance programme.

Any vehicle that fails the mechanical inspection will either be: -

- considered suitable for a retest; or
- suspended until the vehicle is brought to an acceptable standard.

A vehicle will be immediately suspended if, in the opinion of the examiner, one or more of the faults would make the vehicle potentially dangerous or unsafe.

if the vehicle is considered suitable for a re-test, it must be submitted within 10 days - otherwise a full inspection will be required.

Any vehicle that is suspended or not returned within 10 days for re-test will be referred to the Council's licensing department.

A second retest may be available at the discretion of the vehicle examiner if only minor non-compliance persists.

Any disputes resulting from the examination of the vehicle should be made in the first instance to the vehicle workshop supervisor.

It is an offence under the road traffic regulations to use an un-roadworthy vehicle on the public highway. Hackney carriage and private hire operators failing to maintain their vehicles in a safe and roadworthy condition will have their licence suspended, curtailed or revoked

If, in the opinion of the vehicle examiner, the vehicle has not been fully prepared, the test may be terminated and a further full test could be required (for which a further charge may be made).

Additional inspection requirements may be imposed for licensed novelty vehicles (e.g. stretch limousines).