

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Review

The Licensing Service is considering amending the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, and wishes to seek the views of the Trade on the proposed changes to the policy set out below:

Driving Experience

(Current wording) A driver's licence will not be granted to anyone who has not held a full driving licence for a period of three years. Full driving licences issued by EEA states will also count towards this qualification requirement and equal recognition can now also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences.

(Proposed new wording) A driver's licence cannot be granted to anyone who has not held a full driving licence for a period of at least twelve months. Only full driving licences issued in the UK, the European Community (EC) or one of the other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) or from some designated countries that have exchange agreements with the UK, will count towards this qualification requirement. Equal recognition can now also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences. Further details can be found at www.dvla.gov.uk

Do you agree with the above policy change?

- Yes
 No

Comments

Vehicles – Private Hire And Hackney Carriage Specification

(Current wording) Vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance "write off" (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, D, N or S) and/or endorsed as being "accident damaged" on their V5 document will not be licensed.

(Proposed new wording) Vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance "write off" (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, or S) and/or endorsed as being "accident damaged" on their V5 document will not be licensed.

Do you agree with the above policy change?

- Yes
 No

Comments

Accident Notification

(Current wording) The proprietor shall submit the vehicle for any further testing and/or examination as requested by the Council and shall be responsible for the production of any independent engineers reports considered necessary by the Council. Vehicles deemed to be an insurance "write-off" (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, D N or S) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being 'accident damaged' will have their licence revoked.

(Proposed new wording) The proprietor shall submit the vehicle for any further testing and/or examination as requested by the Council and shall be responsible for the production of any independent engineers reports considered necessary by the Council. Vehicles deemed to be an insurance “write-off” (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, or S) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being ‘accident damaged’ will have their licence revoked.

Do you agree with the above policy change?

- Yes
 No

Comments

Tinted Windows

(Current wording) The windows (excluding the windscreen which must have a minimum light transmission of 75%) of any vehicle shall not have been treated so that less than 70% of light is transmitted through it, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission:

- The vehicle is an executive hire or novelty hire vehicle or stretched limousine operating under an Exemption Notice or exceptional circumstances apply; and
- The vehicle will not be engaged at all in any contract or provision of vehicle for the carriage of school children or based around the carriage of unaccompanied children/young persons (i.e. under age 18 years). The driver must not act as the accompanying adult; and
- Approval has been given by the Council.

(Proposed new wording) In the interests of public safety it is important that passengers carried in licensed vehicles are capable of being seen when viewed from outside the vehicle.

Therefore, the Council’s specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows: -

- a) The windscreen shall have a minimum light transmission of 75%
- b) All other front windows of the vehicle shall have a minimum of 70% light transmission,
- c) All rear windows of the vehicle shall have a minimum of 30% light transmission, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission:
 - The vehicle is an executive hire or novelty hire vehicle or stretched limousine operating under an Exemption Notice or exceptional circumstances apply; and
 - The vehicle will not be engaged at all in any contract or provision of vehicle for the carriage of school children or based around the carriage of unaccompanied children/young persons (i.e. under age 18 years). The driver must not act as the accompanying adult; and
 - Approval has been given by the Council.
- d) the Council will allow a 3% (of the minimum specified reading) error margin in line with the testing instruments manufacturers recommendation. For example therefore, a 3% error margin for a rear window reading equals 0.9% (rounded to 1%). This means that a reading of not less than 29% light transmission will be accepted for rear windows.

Do you agree with the above policy change?

- Yes
- No

Comments