

5 Hackney Carriage Vehicles

- 5.1 When first presented for licensing as a hackney carriage, the vehicle must be within certain age limits:
- a All vehicles, both saloon and purpose built, when licensed for the first time must be less than three years from the date of first registration. The Vehicle can remain in use for six years from the date of first registration after which it may be renewed on a year by year basis at the discretion of an Authorised Officer.
 - b All hackney carriage vehicles presented for licensing for the first time must be wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV), except in cases where the vehicle is to replace an existing saloon vehicle which is already licensed.
 - c Once the Vehicle is six years old and every year thereafter, the vehicle must be presented to an Authorised Officer for an inspection for its appearance and suitability prior to testing at the nominated garage and renewal of the licence. Any vehicle that is not to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer must be repaired, prior to the expiry date, or replaced, subject to the age limits above.
- 5.2 Purpose built and conversion vehicles should also be capable of carrying a wheelchair securely with seats that slide on rails, or individual seats that can be removed, or flip down seats, to allow more room for luggage and wheelchairs or both. The first row of seats behind the driver must not be a bench seat.
- 5.3 All vehicles, other than saloons, must be capable of carrying a wheelchair and its passenger, and a minimum of three other passengers, and at least five passengers at any other time.
- 5.4 A converted vehicle [must meet "M1" specification and](#) should have a certificate of conversion from a reputable company [and a voluntary Individual Vehicle Approval \(IVA\) application must be submitted to the DVLA. A converted vehicle will not be licensed without confirmation of this.](#)
- 5.5 Wheelchairs must be capable of being secured in the vehicle with the passenger in a forward or rearward facing position.
- 5.6 Saloon vehicles must be capable of carrying four passengers.
- 5.7 Prior to licensing, the vehicle must undergo a mechanical inspection at a testing station specified by the Council.
- 5.8 The Vehicle may be called in for inspection at any time by an Authorised Officer to ensure compliance. Failure to attend and show any documentation as requested may lead to suspension or revocation

of licence under Section 68 of the Act.

- 5.9 All vehicles must have at least four doors. Saloon vehicles must have four doors in addition to any tailgate.
- 5.10 The engine capacity must be not less than 1600 cc. The Head of Licensing may depart from this section of the Policy where an applicant can produce evidence of a vehicle that has a similar power to weight ratio to a 1600cc vehicle, or, where the vehicle is environmentally friendly.
- 5.11 All vehicles must be right hand drive. In exceptional circumstances a licence may be granted for a left hand drive vehicle.
- 5.11.12 Where a licensed vehicle is involved in an accident and classed as a 'write off' under Category C or D, all vehicles must pass a further mechanical inspection check by a nominated testing station and paperwork provided to the Licensing section before the vehicle is returned for use to carry passengers for hire.

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