

## **Appendix K (from Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2016)**

### **Hackney Carriages – Vehicle Conditions**

1.0 Please note that general vehicle conditions for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are found within appendix A. The following conditions are solely for hackney carriages. Those conditions solely for private hire vehicles are found within Appendix M.

#### **2.0 METERS**

- 2.1 Hackney Carriages shall carry a taxi meter and a “FOR HIRE” illuminating sign (front light). Front lights and roof lights must be connected to the meter so that the lights are illuminated when available for hire, and extinguished when on a journey.
- 2.2 Existing hackney carriage proprietors are required to fit calendar controlled meters (with the calendar controlled facility locked) in their hackney carriages by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012. All hackney carriage vehicles licensed after the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011 are to be fitted with calendar controlled meters. For those vehicles which seat 5,6,7, or 8 passengers, meters may be locked in such a way that enables access between the tariff for up to 4 passengers or for 5,6,7, or 8 passengers at that particular time only (for example a meter will show tariff 1 or 4, tariff 2 or 5, or tariff 3 or 6).
- 2.3 The word ‘FARE’ shall be shown on the face of the meter in plain letters so as to clearly apply to the fare recorded.
- 2.4 The meter shall be positioned and illuminated so that the face is plainly visible at all times to the persons being conveyed.
- 2.5 The Licensing Authority will seal the meter. Any tampering with the seal or the meter constitutes an offence. Where any seal becomes broken or damaged for whatever reason, the owner or operator must immediately inform the Licensing Office, which will arrange for the meter to be re-tested and sealed.
- 2.6 Meters must be switched on when passengers are seated at the commencement of each journey. When the meter is operating there shall be recorded on the face of the meter in clearly legible figures a fare not exceeding the maximum fare that may be charged for a journey.
- 2.7 All taxi meters must contain either the current district council’s authorised fares for licensed hackney carriages (tariff) or the immediately preceding tariff, (thus a choice of two North Devon Council tariffs available to proprietors. Taxi operators must obtain from their taxi meter manufacturer or agent confirmation, in writing, of all tariffs programmed into their meters, other than the North Devon Council tariffs. This confirmation must be supplied to the Licensing Authority on demand so that the Licensing Authority can verify that the tariffs do not exceed the tariffs set by the Authority.
- 2.8 Taxi operators are recommended to only program North Devon Council tariffs into their taxi meters and are free to offer discounts, as they see fit, at the end of a journey.

### **3.0 ROOF SIGNS**

- 3.1 Hackney carriage vehicles, other than those with built-in roof signs, must be fitted with an illuminated roof sign showing the word "TAXI" on the front of the sign. As to the rear of the sign, the name of the company, or its telephone number, or "TAXI", or any combination of the three may be displayed.
- 3.2 The roof sign is to be a "bubble" type sign, the cover to be of a one-piece moulded design. The sign shall not exceed 500mm x 175mm x 125mm in dimensions. The lettering, on both the front and the rear of the sign, shall not be less than 60mm in height, and not less than 80mm and not more than 15mm in thickness.
- 3.3 The roof sign must be centrally mounted on the vehicle roof and be adequately secured either directly to the roof or mounted on a single roof bar and secured by bolts, straps, or clamps. Magnetic top-lights are permitted as long as they cannot be readily pulled off.
- 3.4 Front lights and roof lights must be connected to the meter so that the lights are illuminated when available for hire, and extinguished when on a journey.
- 3.5 Where hackney carriage vehicles are being used in connection with a wedding or funeral the Council deems it permissible for the roof sign to be removed solely for the period during which the wedding or funeral contract is being carried out.

### **4.0 ADVERTISING**

#### **4.1 Bonnet**

One advertisement may be displayed on the bonnet of a vehicle, which must include the word 'Taxi.' Advertising which may follow the word 'Taxi' includes the company name, address, telephone number and company logo, or any combination of these.

#### **4.2 General**

Other advertising is permitted but only with the express permission of a Licensing Officer, who shall prohibit advertising which is disproportionate, unreasonable and not in good taste. As a guide the following conditions will be applied to any additional request:

- (i) All adverts should be appropriate for viewing by children, and no advertising will be permitted which causes public offence.
- (ii) Advertising material must comply with relevant legislation; guidance issued by The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP); the UK Code of Non-broadcast Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing (CAP Code); and any rulings of the Advertising Standards Authority.
- (iii) Advertisements must not encroach onto any part of the windscreens or windows.

- (iv) Advertisements of alcohol, sex establishments, gambling products and services, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes or other similar tobacco products are prohibited.
- (v) Advertisements relating to any political or religious organisation or campaign are prohibited.
- (vi) Any hackney carriage proprietor wishing to display commercial advertising must submit a sample of the proposed advertisement to and obtain written approval from the Licensing Manager.

## **5.0 VEHICLES PLYING FOR HIRE**

- 5.1 A licensed hackney carriage vehicle will be entitled to ply for hire within the district of North Devon, beyond which it is not obligatory for the driver to contract to carry persons for hire under the terms of his licence.
- 5.2 The driver of a hackney carriage vehicle when standing for hire shall: -
  - (a) Cause his vehicle to stand on an appointed hackney carriage stand and remain in attendance on such vehicle, whilst it remains on such a stand;
  - (b) Cause his vehicle to stand immediately at the rear of hackney carriage vehicles occupying such stand upon his arrival and face in the same direction as such other hackney carriage vehicles;
  - (c) Cause his vehicle to move forward to occupy, at once, the space caused by a preceding hackney carriage vehicle on such stand moving off and successive hackney carriage vehicles shall do likewise;
- 5.3 Every such hackney carriage driver shall not: -
  - (a) Cause his hackney carriage vehicle to stand at the rear of such hackney carriage vehicle occupying a stand, if the number of carriages authorised to occupy such stand is thereby exceeded;
  - (b) Refuse a fare without reasonable excuse.
  - (c) When standing or plying for hire, importune (by calling out or otherwise) any person to hire such carriage or use any other persons for the purpose;
  - (d) Obstruct another licensed driver.