

THE INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

**GUIDELINES FOR VEHICLES TO BE APPROVED FOR USE AS
TAXIS/PRIVATE HIRE CARS**

- 1 These guidance notes are issued on behalf of Inverclyde Council for the purposes of information and general guidance. They include the Council's own interpretation of the law and the applicant is strongly advised to obtain his own independent legal advice in any matters of doubt.
- 2 Please note that if you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a vehicle, you are strongly advised to consult with the vehicle inspectors within Grounds, Transport and Cleansing Services prior to making any financial commitment on that vehicle.

GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL VEHICLES

In the first instance, please refer to the standard conditions of licence which include statements as to the condition and maintenance of vehicles licensed by the Council.

The following paragraphs set out the Council's position on a number of matters on which it has been asked for guidance:-

1 Alloy Wheels

If an alloy spare wheel has not been provided as standard by the manufacturer, the Council will be prepared to accept the use of a steel spare wheel along with a wheel trim whose design is as close as possible in appearance to the original alloy wheel. The Licensing Authority will expect that the original alloy wheel should have its tyre repaired or replaced and be restored to active use on the vehicle with the spare wheel kept for further emergency use as soon as possible. Space saver spare wheels are permitted but should only be used to complete the journey on which the original tyre defect occurred and must be used in compliance with manufacturers recommendations.

2 Wheel Trims

All wheel trims on a licensed vehicle must be of similar make and design and free from damage.

3 Tyres

Either new tyres or remoulds manufactured to conform to British Standards BS AU 144E 1998 are to be fitted to licensed vehicles.

All tyres presented for inspection must comply with the Council's established standard in full, namely:-

The grooves of the tread pattern are at least 1.6mm throughout a continuous band comprising:

- The central three quarters of the breadth of the tread, and
- Round the entire circumference of the tyre.

Note All other parts of the tyre tread area must have a visible tread pattern.

4 Dataheads

All dataheads must be fitted so as to be outwith the driver's line of vision and outwith the swept area of the windscreen.

5 Electronic and Electrical Equipment

All electronic and electrical equipment intended for use on the licensed vehicle must be fitted prior to presentation of the vehicle for test.

6 Adapted Vehicles

All fittings and equipment, whether supplied with the vehicle in its original specification or forming part of the special adaptation of the vehicle, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the tail lift (if fitted) and all restraining wheelchair clamps and seatbelt webbings and the wheelchair access ramp (where fitted) shall be included as part of the vehicle tests and inspections carried out by the Licensing Authority. The tests shall be to the standard required by the statutory regulations, where appropriate.

7 Towbars

Where a towbar is fitted the rearmost portion of the device must not project beyond the rear bumper when not in use.

Minimum Specifications for Conventional Saloon/Hatchbacks/Estate Cars licensed for Public/Private Hire

- A vehicle will have 4 doors (saloon) or 5 doors (estate and hatchback)
- The vehicle will have a minimum engine power output of 75 BHP or equivalent power/weight ratio in respect of a low carbon vehicle using an electric or hybrid power unit
- There will be a minimum rear seat width of 48 inches/122cm
- The minimum seating capacity is four adults in addition to the driver
- The luggage compartment will have a minimum capacity of 16cubic feet/0.45 cubic metres

N.B. Where an estate car is to be operated under a licence the following conditions shall also apply:

- Luggage loaded or placed in the luggage compartment must not protrude above the top of the rear seat
- The luggage compartment must be separated from the passenger compartment by a physical barrier, to prevent luggage entering the passenger compartment, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council

Minimum Specifications for Multi Access Vehicles licensed on General Public/Private Hire Licences including those restricted to Multi Access Vehicles

- Vehicle will have a minimum of 4 doors
- The vehicle will have a minimum engine power output of 75 BHP or equivalent power/weight ratio in respect of a low carbon vehicle using an electric or hybrid power unit
- Vehicle will carry 1) M1 European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) **or** 2) N1 European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) **with** one of the following approvals for Low Volume/Small Series Manufacturers:

European Community Small Series Type Approval (EC SSTA)
National Small Series Type Approval (NSSTA)
Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA)

- There will be a minimum seat width of 16 inches/40.5cm for each designated passenger seat
- Vehicle must be capable of carrying one wheelchair passenger and one able bodied adult in addition to the driver at any time or four adults in addition to the driver if the vehicle is not being used to carry a wheelchair passenger
- Any luggage carrying facility when the vehicle is being utilised to carry a wheelchair passenger must be separated from the passenger compartment by a physical barrier to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council
- The vehicle should have a luggage compartment of 16 cubic feet/0.45 cubic metres when not being used to carry a wheelchair passenger
- Luggage loaded or placed in the luggage compartment must not protrude above the top of the rear seat
- The luggage compartment must be separated from the passenger compartment by a physical barrier, to prevent luggage entering the passenger compartment, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council

Notes applying to all Multi Access Vehicles

All fittings and equipment, whether supplied with the vehicle in its original specification or forming part of the special adaptation of the vehicle, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the taillift (if fitted) and all restraining wheelchair clamps and seatbelt webbings and the wheelchair access ramp (where fitted) shall be included as part of the vehicle tests and inspections carried out by the licensing authority. The tests shall be the standard required by the statutory regulations, where appropriate. On presentation for every Annual or 6 monthly test or during the course of any inspection carried out by the licensing authority, the operator/driver shall demonstrate their wheelchair loading and securing procedure.

All currently licensed vehicles which do not meet the stated Vehicle Type Approval standards require to be replaced with a vehicle which does no later than 31st March 2013.