

City of Cardiff Council

Policy and Guidance in relation to licence applications for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles that wish to operate beyond the current age restrictions – vehicles in exceptional condition

1. The maximum permitted age of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles licensed by the City of Cardiff Council is:
 - a) Saloon vehicles: 6 years
 - b) Prestige vehicles: 10 years
 - c) Purpose-built vehicles: 10 years

2. With effect from _____ 2016 the above age restrictions may only be waived in the case of individual vehicles where an application is made and the Council considers that the vehicle is in “exceptional condition” in accordance with the criteria described later in this document.
 - a) Any licence granted as an exemption from the age restrictions will normally be granted for a 12-month period.

 - b) Consideration for an exemption from the age restrictions will only be given to vehicles currently licensed by the Council.

 - c) Applications for vehicles to be considered under the Exceptional Condition Policy must be made in writing to the Licensing Section no later than **6 weeks** prior to expiry of the existing licence. Late submissions will not be accepted and in such cases the vehicle will not be granted a further licence.

3. In determining whether a vehicle is considered to be in exceptional condition the vehicle will be checked by an Officer and the vehicle must comply with all elements of the ‘exceptional condition standard’ as set out in Appendix A

4. If the vehicle fails to meet the standard it will not be considered to be in exceptional condition. It is not acceptable for such a vehicle to be taken away, repaired and represented for further consideration, and any application for a further renewal will be refused.

5. It is important for applicants to understand that:
 - Only vehicles considered to be in exceptional consideration as outlined in Appendix A will be licensed above the Council’s maximum age limits.
 - The policy is not designed to ‘pass’ average vehicles and it is important that applicants recognise this before applying.

- It is likely that the vehicle will not meet the exceptional condition standard if there are advisory items on the last MOT certificate that have not been addressed.
- If the vehicle is considered to be in exceptional condition a standard MOT test will also be required before the licence can be renewed.

Appendix A

The standard used to determine whether a vehicle is in “exceptional condition”.

The following standards will be applied when determining whether or not a vehicle is considered to be in exceptional condition:

- (1) The bodywork should be in excellent condition with all trims present, no signs of panel age deterioration, dents, scratches, stone chips, rust or any other abrasions that detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle. No tape may be used to cover defects.
- (2) The general paint condition should not show signs of fading, discolouration or mismatching that detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.
- (3) All lights shall be secure and in full working order.
- (4) In the case of Hackney Carriages the roof sign shall be securely fastened to the vehicle and in full working order
- (5) Road wheels must be clean and free from significant marks or damage and rust free
- (6) All tyres, including the spare wheel (where fitted) must be roadworthy
- (7) All wheel trims to be present and fitted according to the manufacturer’s specification and all matched.
- (8) Front and rear registration plates to be clean, clear, not obscured by tow bar etc., unbroken and conform to the relevant legislation.
- (9) Front and rear bumpers to have no significant or noticeable rust, dents, cracks or scrapes properly painted where required and be securely fitted.
- (10) Windscreen to be clean and free of scratches or chips.
- (11) Wiper blades should be in proper working order and clear the relevant screen properly

- (12) Wing mirrors and rear view mirrors must be in good condition with no deterioration in the reflecting surface. Both wing mirrors must match.
- (13) Radiator grills should be secured and the original specification
- (14) All doors should be easily opened, in good condition with the correct functioning of door stay catches and devices (including sliding doors)
All door handles should be properly fitted easily operated and of original specification.
- (15) The interior trim, panels, seating and carpets, etc must be present and in excellent condition; clean, free of damage, odour, damp, stains and discoloration.
- (16) All panels should match the original trim.
- (17) Seats must be secure, clean and not unduly worn. Any seat covers should be a matching set, a good fit, clean and stain free without sagging, wrinkling holes or tears
- (18) All seat belts should be clean, undamaged and in good working order. All anchorage point covers should be properly fitted and match original trim.
- (19) All instruments, accessories, ash trays etc fitted securely, matching the trim and clean.
- (20) Headlining is to be stain free, clean with no holes or tears.
- (21) All windows must operate correctly and easily
- (22) Heating, demisting and air ventilation systems (including passenger compartment controls where fitted must be fully operational.
- (23) The inside of the vehicle should be free from any trailing or loose wires.
- (24) The vehicle must be in excellent mechanical condition and in all respects safe and roadworthy with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or body work. There shall be no sign of water or oil leaks from the vehicle.
- (25) The boot or luggage compartment to be in excellent condition, clean, undamaged with no sign of water ingress.
- (26) If a hatchback the boot cover must be original with both lifting straps fitted.

Wheel chair accessible vehicles:

- (27) a) single rear door – must open to a minimum of 90 degrees and be capable of locking in place
b) twin rear door - both must open to a minimum of 180 degrees and be capable of being locked in place
- (28) Wheelchair restraints must be in clean and in good condition
- (29) If designed to use ramps they must be securely stored and free from damage, deformity and sharp edges. The anti-slip covering must be in good condition and not worn or missing.
- (30) Vehicles fitted with a wheelchair lift must have a LOLER certificate that is valid for a period of six months from the date of issue.

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