

## **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – CONDITIONS**

The following are the conditions attached to the private hire driver's licence. Breach of any of these conditions may lead to suspension or revocation of the licence.

### **Identification of Driver**

1. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall at all times whilst in the course of his duty wear his private hire driver's badge in such a position and manner as to be plainly visible and this badge must be shown, if requested to the hirer of the vehicle and to any "authorised officer" or police officer for the purposes of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

### **Use of Taximeter**

2. The driver of a private hire vehicle provided with a taximeter shall:-
  - a) as soon as the hirer commences his journey, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the said key, flag or other device, so that the word 'HIRED' is legible on the face of the taximeter and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring;
  - b) cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of a hiring which is between sunset and sunrise and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.
3. If a private hire vehicle being driven by the driver is fitted with a taximeter, the driver shall not cause the fare recorded thereon to be cancelled or concealed until the hirer has had a reasonable opportunity to examine it and has paid the fare (unless credit is to be given).

### **Interference with Equipment**

4. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with, any taximeter with which the vehicle is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto, nor with any other equipment attached to or forming part of the vehicle.

### **Advertisements etc.**

5. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall not place or suffer to be placed any printed, written or other matter by way of advertisement on any part of the vehicle except with the written consent of the Council.

### **Shortest Route**

6. The driver of a private hire vehicle when hired to drive to any particular destination shall, subject to any directions given by the hirer, proceed to that destination by the shortest available route.

#### **Driver's Badge**

7. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall, when required to do so by an authorised officer of the Council, return the driver's badge and licence to the Council and obtain a receipt for it. The driver shall upon the expiry (without immediate renewal), revocation or suspension of this licence, forthwith return the driver's badge to the Council, and obtain a receipt for the same.

#### **Assistance with Luggage**

8. The driver of a private hire vehicle so constructed as to carry luggage shall, when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the vehicle:-
  - a) convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
  - b) afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading;
  - c) afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any building, station or place at which he may take up or set down such a person.

#### **Lost Property**

9. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall, immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the vehicle for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.
10. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the vehicle be found by or handed to him, carry it as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours, if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, to a police station within the district where he should report it to the officer in charge of the station.

#### **Carriage of Other Persons**

11. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall not permit any person to be conveyed in the vehicle without the consent of the hirer.

#### **Concealment of Licence Plate**

12. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any licence plate to be concealed from public view while the vehicle is being used for the purpose of hire.

#### **Convictions**

13. The driver shall within seven days disclose to the Council in writing, details of any conviction imposed on him during the period of the licence.

### **Prompt Attendance**

14. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall, if he is aware that the vehicle has been hired to be in attendance at an appointed time and place or he has otherwise been instructed by the operator or proprietor of the vehicle to be in attendance at an appointed time and place unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause.

### **Copy of Conditions**

15. The driver shall at all times when driving a private hire vehicle carry with him a copy of these conditions and shall make it available for inspection by the hirer or any other passenger on request.

### **Fare to be Demanded**

16. The driver shall not demand from any hirer of a private hire vehicle a fare in excess of any fare previously agreed for the hiring between the hirer and the operator or, if the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter and there has been no previous agreement as to the fare, the fare shown on the face of the taximeter.

### **Change of Address**

17. The driver shall notify the Council in writing of any change of address during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.
18. The driver shall:-
  - a) at all times be clean and respectable in his dress and person and behave in a civil and orderly manner;
  - b) take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of passengers conveyed in, entering or alighting from the vehicle driven by him;
  - c) not without the express consent of the hirer smoke, drink or eat in the vehicle;
  - d) not without the express consent of the hirer play any radio or sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle other than for the purpose of sending or receiving messages in connection with the operation of the vehicle.
  - e) at no time cause or permit the noise emitted by any radio or other previously mentioned equipment in the vehicle which he is driving, to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person, whether inside or outside the vehicle.

### **Passengers**

19.
  - 1) The driver shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in a private hire vehicle a greater number of persons than that prescribed in the licence for the vehicle, provided however, that for this purpose two children below the age of ten years may be counted as one person insofar as the rear seating only is concerned.
  - 2) The driver shall not allow there to be conveyed in the front of a private hire vehicle:-

- a) any child below the age of ten years or,
- b) more than one person above that age.

### **Written Receipts**

- 20. The driver shall if requested by the hirer of a private hire vehicle, provide him with a written receipt for the fare paid.

### **Animals**

- 21. The driver shall not convey in a private hire vehicle any animal belonging to or in the custody of himself or the proprietor or operator of the vehicle. Any animal belonging to or in the custody of any passenger which in the driver's discretion may be conveyed in the vehicle shall only be conveyed in the rear of the vehicle.
- 22. With effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2001, the driver of a private hire vehicle which has been hired:
  - a) by or for a disabled person with their guide, hearing or prescribed assistance dog; or
  - b) by such a person who will be accompanied in the taxi by such a person;

### **SHALL**

- a) carry the disabled passenger's dog and allow it to remain with the passenger; and
- b) not make any additional charge for doing so.

An "assistance dog" is defined by Regulations made under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as a dog which is trained by specified charities, ie., "Dogs for the Disabled", "Support Dogs" or "Canine Partners for Independence", to assist a disabled person with a physical impairment and which at the time that its owner hires a private hire vehicle is wearing a jacket inscribed with the name of one of those charities.

This condition shall not apply to a driver who as applied for, and been granted a certificate of exemption.

### **Health of Driver**

- 23. The driver of a private hire vehicle must inform the Council without delay about the onset or worsening of any health condition likely to cause him to be a source of danger to the public when driving either now or in the future. Examples are giddiness, fainting, blackouts, epilepsy, strokes, multiple sclerosis, parkinson's disease, heart disease, angina, high blood pressure, arthritis, disorder of vision. Mental illness, alcoholism, drug taking and loss of a limb or use of a limb. **THIS LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL THE DISABILITIES THAT MUST BE REPORTED. THESE EXAMPLES ARE GIVEN ONLY TO INDICATE THE TYPES OF DISABILITIES.**

Drivers who are in doubt about whether or not their health condition is one which should be reported should consult their doctor.

24. A medical certificate signed by General Practitioner of the applicant practising in the United Kingdom shall be produced at the time of the initial application, at the time of each renewal and annually for persons over the age of 65 pm the anniversary of the issue of their licence.

#### **Renewal of Licences**

25. Applications to renew a licence must be submitted at least 14 days before the expiry of the licence on the appropriate form.