



Middlesbrough Council Private Hire Vehicle Conditions

Conditions of Private Hire Vehicle Licence

1. Maintenance of Vehicles

The vehicle and all its fitting and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire be kept in an exceptionally well maintained condition and all relevant statutory requirements shall be fully complied with.

2. Alteration of Vehicle

No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle or fitting of aftermarket equipment shall be made without the written approval of the Council at any time while the licence is in force.

3. Interior Identification Marking

The proprietor shall cause to be clearly displayed inside the vehicle either on the dashboard or in such other prominent position so as to be clearly visible at all times to persons conveyed therein, the internal sticker as supplied by the Council "This vehicle is a PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE. If you did not book this journey in advance you may not be insured in the event of an accident and the driver may be committing an offence", and at the top of each rear passenger door window a window sticker as supplied by the Council indicating the vehicle identification number and contact details for the Council.

4. Interior Lighting

There shall be maintained in the vehicle adequate internal lighting to enable passengers to enter and leave the vehicle with safety.

5. Lights

No decorative lighting shall be permitted other than lighting which comes fitted as standard by the vehicle manufacturer.

6. Convictions

The proprietor shall within seven days disclose to the Council in writing details of any convictions and/or caution imposed on him or, if the proprietor is a company or partnership, on any of the directors or partners during the period of the licence.

7. Change of Address

The proprietor shall notify the Council in writing of any change of his home address, business address or registered address (if different from home address) during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.

8. Identification Plate

The plate, issued by the Council, identifying the vehicle as a private hire vehicle and required to be exhibited on the vehicle pursuant of Section 48(6) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall unless exempted in writing be securely fixed to the rear of the vehicle in a conspicuous position duly approved by the Council and in such manner so as to be easily removable by an authorised officer of

the Council or a Police Officer. The plate shall be kept clean at all times so that no details contained upon it are obscured.

9. Signs, Notices Etc.

- 1) No signs, notices, advertisements, video or audio display, plates, marks, numbers, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices whatsoever shall be displayed on, in or from the vehicle except as may be required by any statutory provision or required or permitted by these conditions, provided however, that this condition shall not apply to any indication on a taxi meter fitted to the vehicle or to a sign, approved and located in accordance with the directions of the Council which is displayed in, on, or from the vehicle.
- 2) No signs may be displayed on a private hire vehicle containing the words 'taxi', 'cab' or 'hackney carriage'
- 3) The proprietor shall unless exempted in writing cause to be affixed and maintained in or on the vehicle in a conspicuous position and so positioned that the details are not concealed in any way the following:
 - (a) A door sign of such design and appearance as may be approved and supplied by the Council to be located beneath the window on the nearside and offside front doors of the vehicle.
 - (b) On both rear passenger doors, beneath the window, the operator's trading name. The operator's logo and telephone number may also be displayed.
 - (c) A front identification sign as may be approved and supplied by the Council and fixed in such manner so as to be easily removable by an authorised officer of the Council or a Police Officer.
 - (d) In the case of wheelchair accessible vehicles, a wheelchair accessibility sticker must be displayed.

Note: The use of magnetised signs are not permitted

- 4) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing condition any advertisement shall not be allowed or affixed without the prior approval of the Council and:
 - a) shall not be affixed to any window of the vehicle, unless specifically authorised in writing; and
 - b) must adhere to the current Advertising Standards Authority Code
- 5) The proprietor or such person in charge of the vehicle when requested to do so by an authorised officer of the Council or a Police Officer shall return to them, any sign, door sign, emblem or device. If any proprietor or such person in charge of the vehicle fails without reasonable excuse to comply, an authorised officer of the Council or a Police Officer shall be entitled to remove and retain any identification plate, sign, door sign, badge, emblem or device.

- 6) There may be displayed within the vehicle for the information of passengers a table of fares in a form and printing previously submitted to and approved by the Council.
- 7) The proprietor shall notify the Council of the loss or theft of any identification plate, door sign, sign, or notice relating to the private hire vehicle as soon as the loss becomes known and in any case within two working days. The loss or theft must also be notified to the Police.
- 8) All signs and stickers must be clearly legible and must be replaced when worn.

10. Insurance and MOT Certificates

The vehicle shall have a current valid policy of insurance and MOT Certificate at all times appropriate to the use authorised by this licence. A copy of these certificates shall be given to the vehicles licensed Private Hire Operator

If the vehicle is off the road and uninsured at any time, the proprietor must inform the Council in writing as soon as practicable and in any event with 72 hours.

11. Change of Engine

The proprietor must notify the Council, in writing, within 7 days if the vehicle engine is changed. Such notification shall include details of the new engine number.

12. Change of Private Hire Operator

This vehicle may only be operated under the provisions of one private hire operator's licence at any moment in time and the proprietor shall notify the Council in writing of any change to the licensed operator during the period of this licence within 48 hours.

13. Complaints

The vehicle proprietor shall report any complaint received by them in relation to the licensed vehicle or its driver to their licensed Private Hire Operator immediately upon receipt or the next working day if not practicable.

14. Fitting of after-market equipment

Approved after-market equipment e.g. data systems, satellite navigation, cameras etc. shall be so positioned so as not to obscure the drivers vision of the road.

15. Luggage space

The luggage space of the vehicle shall be kept clean and free from the proprietor's/driver's personal property so that it is available to store passenger's luggage.

16. Pushchairs and buggies

Pushchairs or buggies carried in the vehicle shall be collapsed and the child carried in accordance with the law in relation to seat belts. Pushchairs or buggies if not collapsed shall not be carried at any time.

17. Facilities for wheelchairs

All equipment and fittings provided in a wheelchair accessible vehicle for the safe loading/unloading and carriage of a person in a wheelchair shall be present in the vehicle at all times and maintained in good working order.

All portable equipment such as ramps and wheelchair restraining straps must be identified in a permanent manner with the vehicle licence number e.g. PV 999.

The vehicle proprietor shall ensure that the driver of the vehicle has had adequate training in the use of all equipment within the vehicle associated with the loading/unloading and safe securing of wheelchairs. i.e. the correct and safe use of any ramps, wheelchair restraints or lifting equipment supplied with the vehicle to ensure the safe access, transportation and egress of any wheelchair bound passenger.

Drivers must also sign an undertaking for the proprietor stating that they are competent in the correct use of the securing systems used in the particular wheelchair accessible PHV they are intending to drive.

18. Sliding doors

Where sliding doors are an integral part of a vehicle and a locking device has not been fitted the child locking systems shall be engaged by the driver at all times when the vehicle is in motion and carrying passengers.

Additional Conditions to Be Applied To Novelty Vehicles and Stretched Limousines

19. Vehicles must not carry front seat passengers
20. All passengers must remain seated at all times and must wear seat belts and any other safety restraint when the vehicle is in motion.
21. Where passengers in the vehicle consist of any persons under the age of 14 years they must be accompanied by a responsible adult, other than the driver, who must be over the age of 18 years.
22. If all the occupants of the vehicle, save for the driver and responsible adult, are under the age of 18, then there shall be no alcohol allowed at all in the vehicle for consumption or otherwise.
23. Advertisements will not be allowed on the vehicle's windows.
24. Novelty vehicles fitted with side facing seats shall not be used to carry passengers under 12 years of age regardless of whether the vehicle is fitted with or without seatbelts.
26. Notices forbidding children to be carried in side facing seats must be clearly displayed in prominent positions and be visible at all times on entrance doors to the passenger compartment and on the inside of the vehicle on either side of the passenger compartment.