

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Inspections



Please note:

- A. The following documents must be presented to the Compliance Examination Centre **before** the vehicle will be accepted for test. ***If you are unable to provide the documents, the test will be unable to take place***
- A certificate or cover note of insurance covering the vehicle for either Public Hire or Private Hire use
 - Signage Approval Certificate (applicable if your vehicle has additional signage/advertisements)
- B. All vehicles attending for test must have been prepared to a high standard. Preparation of the vehicle ensures that **ALL** items of the MOT test, and the additional requirements specified below can be inspected. Any relevant repairs **MUST** be carried out **BEFORE** the vehicle is presented for test. If the vehicle has not been fully prepared, or such repairs carried out, the vehicle will not be accepted for test. If during the test it then becomes apparent to the vehicle tester that the vehicle has not been properly prepared for test – i.e. there are **ANY** defects that could have been addressed by the correct preparation of the vehicle - then the test **WILL** be stopped and the examination fee forfeited.

It is also essential that a person or establishment that is suitably conversant with the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire testing procedures and also the current MOT regulations carries out the preparation of the vehicle. It is therefore recommended that you provide this handout (or a copy) to whoever is entrusted to prepare your vehicle. Vehicle owners are also reminded that Vehicle Licensing Condition 10 requires the vehicle to be suitably maintained at all times, not just at the testing intervals.

Once the vehicle has been accepted for test, the following compliance standards will apply in addition to all Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Standards

1. The interior and exterior of the vehicle including; underside, transmission, suspension, boot and engine/engine bay must be clean.
2. Door hinges lubricated and free from wear; electric windows or manual window winders should be working correctly to allow windows to open and close freely, all doors open and close freely and any central locking units working correctly.
3. All radio and communication equipment and any wiring to be secured using appropriate terminals and fixings. All wiring to be suitably fused.
4. Headlining, upholstery, floor coverings, door seals and door trims to be sound, secure, and clean. All standard interior equipment and controls to be sound, clean, and functioning.
5. Airbag (SRS) warning light – this **MUST** operate in compliance with the manufacturers' specific information.
6. Large Licence Identification plate securely fitted to the rear of the vehicle at bumper height or above, in an upright position, away from exhaust, not excessively faded, defaced or otherwise damaged, and not obscured by any fixtures or fittings (currently licensed vehicle only). All door signs and/or window/windscreen stickers must be in accordance with Vehicle Licensing Condition 3, Hackney Carriage Vehicle Condition 12 and Private Hire Vehicle Condition 17.
7. The vehicle must have an appropriate and working fire extinguisher bearing the Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence Number, in indelible ink stored in the glove compartment, within the boot space or secured within the passenger cell in a properly constructed bracket in a position in which it is readily available for use.
8. The vehicle must have a First Aid Kit bearing the Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence Number, in indelible ink and the minimum contents must comply with the list of contents for travelling first aid kits as included in the 'Approved code of Practice and Guidance: First Aid at Work (The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulation 1981 L74'. Further information can be found in the HSE Guidance Leaflet L74 "First Aid at Work".
9. The vehicle must have a complete and serviceable Bulb Kit for the vehicle, bearing the Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence Number in indelible ink, which must be kept in the vehicle.
10. The vehicle must carry equipment to repair or replace a punctured tyre.
11. All fitted wheels including any spare must have a minimum 2mm of tread over the full width of the tyre and in a continuous band.

12. All exterior body work is to be properly attached, free of corrosion and damage (including scratches and dents), professionally painted to a *high standard and condition free of dull or oxidised patches (including runs, overspray and preparation marks) and in the correct colour.

**Exterior 'high' body work condition will be assessed against the relative age of the vehicle. Minor imperfections or damage may meet a minimum allowable standard for a pass to be issued. However, an advisory may also be issued for rectification to be completed *before* the vehicles next compliance test. Any repairs carried out must still be to a professional standard.*
13. The boot must be clean and tidy and watertight. Hatchback and estate cars shall have a safety grill fitted behind the rear seats unless a manufacturer's parcel shelf - that covers the entire luggage area - is fitted. Fuel containers must be of an approved type and carried empty.
14. Meter (if fitted) must be checked over distance and time, sealed and displaying tariff card.
15. Hackney Carriage vehicles must be fitted with Top Sign of an approved type. If a For Hire Sign is fitted, the For Hire Sign and Top Sign must be linked together so that both can be extinguished when the meter is engaged.
16. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles must have wheelchair ramps (bearing the Vehicle Identification Number secured within the vehicle) or, an operational tail lift. Wheelchair clamps and wheelchair occupant restraint system must be available. All vehicles fitted with a tail lift must have documentation to prove correct maintenance and testing has been carried out, this documentation must come from a reputable tail lift specialist and provide details of the vehicle, lift and date of testing and servicing, in accordance with the current Health and Safety Executive's regulations. A manual means of operating the lift must be provided and signage must be in place to demonstrate how to operate the lift both powered and manually.
17. Any modification of the vehicle is only acceptable where it is not detrimental to the safety and well being of the occupants.
18. Where no taximeter is fitted there must be a functioning odometer fitted capable of measuring tenths of a mile.