

Solihull MBC

Supplementary Testing Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles

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(1) Vehicle Exterior

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
1.0	Exterior Bodywork	The exterior of the bodywork, the underside of the vehicle and the engine compartment must be in a suitable clean condition to allow for proper inspection of these areas	Contamination preventing proper inspection. (If the vehicle comes for annual Inspection in a dirty condition the inspection will not be carried out
1.1	Door Locks & Catches	Check the operation of all external door catches and locks to ensure that all doors can be securely closed and easily opened	Defective door catches which prevent a door opening and closing properly. (The vehicle will fail the test where defects in a door seal are considered to be likely to cause rain penetration, excessive draught and excessive road noise inside the vehicle or represent a trip hazard to users of the vehicle
1.2	Doors	Check all doors to ensure that they are properly aligned and will close easily	Poorly fitted doors to vehicle
1.3	Door Hinges	Ensure that the door hinges are in good condition allowing free movement of the door	Defective door hinges
1.4	Door opening straps	Check all door straps/levers to ensure that the doors are restrained when opened	Door straps which fail to restrain the doors when fully open
1.5	Door safety locks	Check to ensure that all childproof and safety locks are operational	Childproof & safety locks where fitted must be operational
1.6	Paintwork	<p>Examine the external paintwork for signs of damage, which adversely affects the appearance of the vehicle.</p> <p>The paintwork should be clean, in good condition and consistent and uniform over the whole vehicle.</p> <p>Two-tone colour and transfers are acceptable, provided that they are to the manufacturer's specification and factory fitted from new.</p> <p>No advertisements or signs other than the company or operating name shall be displayed in or on the vehicle at any time</p>	<p>Corrosion or damage to the vehicle body or structure, which adversely affects the appearance and / or safety of the vehicle. (Engineers certification may be required to satisfy the vehicle examiner that the repairs have properly carried out.</p> <p>Generally poor damaged paintwork to the vehicle. (Service Manager to be consulted if required. Two-tone paintwork, which is not to manufacturer's specification</p>

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
1.7	Rear boot lid	Ensure that the rear boot lid opens and closes, and that the hinges and opening mechanism adequately support the lid when it is in the 'lifted' position and doesn't come into contact with rear screen	Worn hinges to boot lid, defective boot lock, and weak or defective boot opening device
1.8	Reversing lights	Check the operation of the reversing lights and front fog lights if fitted	Inoperable or inefficient reversing or front fog lights. (Lights may be in efficient intensity when incorrect bulbs have been fitted. Any lamp fitted must work correctly and be properly aligned
1.9	Glass tinting	To be decided	To be decided
1.10	Bumpers	Ensure that the front and rear bumpers are in good order and are securely fixed to the vehicles. Front Bull Bars are NOT ALLOWED	Damaged or inadequately secured front or rear bumpers. Bull Bars Fitted
1.11	Roof racks	Roof racks are NOT ALLOWED	Roof rack fitted
1.12	Special event vehicles	Limousines & Special Event Vehicles Only – If fitted, childproof locks must not be disabled. Rear exit from vehicle to be available at all times	

(2) Licence Plates

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
2.1		Inspect the vehicle licence plate fixed to the rear of the vehicle for signs of damage or excessive wear, and ensure that the licence details/numbers are clearly legible. (Changed annually) and not obscured by tow bars etc	A sign that does not confirm to the Council's standards affixed to the vehicle. A sign, which is damaged or has lettering which, is not clearly legible or obscured by a tow bar
2.2		Examine the plate fixing to the vehicle to ensure that it is securely fixed. Ensure that the plate is fixed in a prominent position externally. Centrally mounted on the rear boot (provision normally allotted)	As above
2.3		Where signs are fitted on private hire vehicle they are to be secure and correctly displayed to the exterior of the vehicle	A sign not securely fitted or correctly displayed

(3) Tyres

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
3.1	Tyres General	Examine the tyres for signs of damage or excessive wear, and ensure that each has a minimum tread depth of 2mm.	Damaged, worn, substandard or otherwise illegal tyres. (A mix of steel or cord radials or a mix of rotational or non-rotational tyres on one axle will not be accepted). Re-cut tyres are not acceptable
3.2	Remoulds	Remoulds are acceptable provided they carry a clearly legible manufacturers mark and the tyre conforms to BS AU 144E	A remould will only be accepted if it carries a clearly legible manufacturer's mark and the tyre conforms to the British Standard
3.3	Tyre Markings	It is acceptable for the wording 'Taxi' to be embossed onto the tyres of Hackney Carriage London Taxi's, Metro Cabs and LT1 vehicles	Taxi tyres on vehicles, which are not London Taxi's, Metro cabs or LT1
3.4	Wheel Design	All four wheels (inc alloys) must be of the same design including alloy wheel centre discs. All fitted wheel trims must be matching	Missing, damaged or mis-matched wheel trims missing centre discs on alloy wheels
3.5	Space Saver Wheels	Original manufacturers space saver wheels are acceptable and should be marked on tyre or wheel rim (Maximum speed 50 MPH). Must not be fitted to the vehicle at the time of test	Not to manufacturers specification and not clearly marked
3.6	Jack / Wheel Brace	Examine the presence of a jack and wheel brace provided with the vehicle to ensure that they are in good condition. The registration number of the vehicle must be marked on the jack	Failure to provide a suitable jack and/or wheel brace with the vehicle. Jack/wheel brace in poor condition jack not marked with registration number

Note:

Vehicles fitted with 'run flat tyres' are acceptable.
 Vehicles manufactured without a spare wheel are acceptable

(4) Boot

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
4.1	General	Examine the interior for evidence of damage, corrosion or water penetration	Damage or corrosion to the floor of the boot, inner wing panels or lid
4.2	Boot Floor	Examine the boot floor covering to ensure that it is in good condition and that it offers adequate area for luggage carrying as well as protection to luggage from getting soiled	Excessive wear, damage or staining to the boot floor covering
4.3	Cleanliness	Examine the interior of the boot for accumulation of dirt, dust, grease, litter etc. or staining of any surface with which luggage may come into contact	Accumulations of dirt, grease, rubbish etc., in the boot which could soil or damage luggage stored therein

Note:

Some vehicles that have been converted to run on LPG may not have adequate luggage carrying space. This is acceptable

(5) Engine Compartment

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
5.1	Engine Mountings	Examine the engine mountings for signs of deterioration	Engine mounting corroded/contaminated as to be likely to fail or give excessive vibration through the vehicle
5.2	Oil Leaks	Inspect for excessive oil leaks. Check that any leakage of oil is within reasonable limits considering the age, mileage and service record of the vehicle	Not liable to cause a smell through burning or contaminate road surface
5.3	Radiator	Ensure that the radiator is properly secured to the vehicle and check for leaks	A leaking or inadequately secured radiator
5.4	Cooling Hoses	Inspect all cooling system hoses visible in the engine compartment for leaks	Leaking and significantly worn or deteriorated hoses not secured that it is likely to chaff to cause premature failure
5.5	Battery	Inspect the battery for security, corrosion and leaks	A battery that is not adequately secured, excessive corrosion and leaking battery acid
5.6	Wiring / Fuse Box	Visual inspection of wiring and fuse box. Check for exposed wiring, undue corrosion and chaffing	Wiring is corroded or chaffed and insecure that in the opinion of the tester a short circuit is likely to occur
5.7	Bonnet Catch & Support	Check operations of the bonnet release catch and bonnet support is present	Defective bonnet release catch/mechanism

(6) Clutch & Transmission

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
6.1	General	Test the clutch for satisfactory operation	Clutch judder, grab or slipping outside normal limits
6.2	Play in Linkage	Inspect the clutch/gear change linkage for undue wear	Linkages are so worn that they are likely to fail
6.3	Clutch Hydraulics	Inspect the clutch hydraulic system and cylinders	Undue corrosion and leaks
6.4	Drive / Prop shafts	Test the drive and prop shafts for undue play. Check constant inner and outer velocity and universal joints. Check inner and outer driveshaft gaiters	Split gaiters and excessive noisy transmission joints
6.5	Gearbox mountings & Oil Leaks	Test gearbox mountings for security. Check that any gearbox oil leakage is within reasonable limits considering the age, mileage and service record of the vehicle	Mountings corroded/contaminated as likely to fail, leaking oil that is liable to cause a smell through burning or contaminate the road surface
6.6	Rear Axle	Inspect rear axle for oil leaks. Check that any leakage of rear axle oil is within reasonable limits considering the age, mileage and service record of the vehicle	Liable to cause a smell through burning or contaminate the road surface

(7) Steering & Suspension

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
7.1		Lowered suspensions that do not conform to manufacturer's specification are not allowed	Where a suspension has been lowered that it gives passengers an uncomfortable or hard ride
7.2		Steering wheels that do not conform to the manufacturer's specification are not allowed	Where a steering wheel has been fitted incorrectly or that it affects the control or manoeuvrability of the vehicle

(8) Vehicle Interior

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
8.1	Seats & Upholstery	Inspect the seats and upholstery for general condition. Check that all seats, upholstery trim and carpets are clean, odourless and sound and where stained, covered. Check there are no sharp edges, which would be likely to cause injury or damage.	A vehicle, which is in dirty condition with accumulation of dust, litter, debris etc., or staining to carpets or upholstery (Unacceptable smells of vomit, food or other contaminants) floor that is not covered by adequate carpets or mats. Carpet is so badly worn that it is likely to cause danger to passengers.
8.2	Water Leaks	Remove any loose mats from the floor and examine the carpets for signs of leakage of water into vehicle	Evidence or leakage of water into the vehicle from rainwater penetration or leaking coolant from vehicle heater system.
8.3	Seat Cushions & Backrests	Sit in each of the passenger seats within the vehicle to ensure that all the seat cushions and backrests are in good condition and offer proper support to the passenger	Upholstery, which is in poor, condition and /or offer poor support to passengers.
8.4	Seat Security	Examine all seats to ensure that they are properly secured to the vehicle; with a fixed rear seat make sure the seat cushion is not loose	Seats, which are not adequately secured to the vehicle
8.5	Interior Lights	Check the operation of all interior lights within the vehicle both the manual switch and the door operated switches	Faulty interior light fitting. Faulty interior light switch. Faulty interior light door switch
8.6	Rear View Mirror	Examine the interior rear view mirror and ensure that it is securely fixed, clear and no ornamental objects hanging from the bracket.	A loose, damaged or missing rear view mirror.
8.7	Ventilation	Ensure heaters and demisters are adequately working	Defective heater/windscreen demister (controls that can not be adjusted from cold to hot and fan assistance does not function).
8.8	Pedal Rubbers	Examine the brake and clutch pedal rubbers for signs of excessive wear.	Worn or missing brake and/or clutch pedal rubbers.
8.9	Screen Heaters	Check the operation of both the front and rear screen heaters to ensure they are functioning correctly	Defective front/rear heater.

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
8.10	Window Operation	Check the operation/condition of all windows ensuring that they allow the windows to be fully lowered and raised easily. (Exceptions are in the case of safety of the passengers).	Window winder/slides that do not allow windows to be easily lowered/raised or slide.
8.11	Door Catches	Check the operation of all the door release catches to ensure that the doors can be easily opened from within the vehicle.	Defective interior door release catches.
8.12	Childproof Locks	Check the operation of all childproof locks to ensure that the doors cannot be opened from within the vehicle once the locks have been activated.	Defective child proof locks (doors still opening when locks activated)
8.13	Speedo & Odometer	Test to ensure that the speedometer and odometer are working correctly. Check that the trip meter can be set to zero	Speedometer and odometer not registering.
8.14	Dash Lights	Check to ensure that the dash and panel lights are working so that they illuminate instrument and dials	Dash and instrument panel not illuminated
8.15	Access Ramps	Any ramp provided with the vehicle to assist disabled passengers must be clearly marked with the registration number of the vehicle.	Ramp not marked with vehicle registration number

(11) Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
11.1	NS Door Opening	The near side rear door must be capable of opening as wide as the aperture	Near side door unable to be opened as wide as the aperture
11.2	Front To Rear Seat Spacing	There must be sufficient space between the front of the rear seat and the partition for a wheelchair to turn	Insufficient space between the front of the rear seat and the partition for a wheelchair to turn
11.3	Wheel Chair Security	A means to secure both the chair and the wheelchair occupant must be provided and found to be in good working order	No means of securing the chair and occupant to the vehicle or present but not In good working order
11.4	Ramps	Appropriate ramps must be carried within the vehicle at all times and clearly identifiable with the registration number or plate number	Ramps not carried on the vehicle and not clearly identified with the vehicle registration plate number
11.5	Detachable Restraints	Any detachable restraints must be visible at time of test and must be identified with the vehicle by means of the registration number or plate number	Detachable restraints not visible at time of test. Not identified with the vehicle

(12) LPG Powered Vehicles

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
12.1	Certificate of Conformity	A certificate of conformity in line with the Code of Practice of the LPG Gas Association Regulations must be provided at the time of test	No evidence of certificate of conformity or incorrect documentation
12.2	Fuel Pipes	Check security and condition of fuel pipes, the tank should be suitably covered avoiding any damage to luggage and preventing any persons tampering with the LPG equipment	Fuels pipes and fitting that are not secured and likely to chaff. Exposed tank where damage is likely to be caused by luggage or persons

(13) Tail Lifts

	Area	Test Item	Reason For Failure
13.1	Certificate of Inspection	Produce a certificate of inspection and weight test not more than six months old at the time of test	Failure to provide current test certificate

Other

Tinted Windows

For safety reasons it should be possible to observe the driver and passengers being carried. Many vehicles are used for the carriage of children, and vulnerable persons, and for this reason tinted windows that prevent clear vision into the vehicle shall not be permitted.

From 1st January 2009, only manufacturer fitted tinted and anti-glare windows are acceptable and all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles must allow at least 70 % of light to be transmitted through all windows.

Write Offs

From 1st January 2009, all vehicles should have no damage affecting the structural safety of the vehicle. Any vehicle written off for insurances purposes will not be licensed.

Category A The vehicle must be scrapped and no parts or components can be sold other than for scrap

Category B The vehicle must not be used again but non-structural and roadworthy parts and components may be recovered for use in other vehicles

Category D The vehicle is economically repairable but other factors are involved that cause the insurer to declare the vehicle to be a write off

Category X The vehicle is easily repairable and may still be roadworthy

Unrecorded Write Of The vehicle damage was not reported to the insurer or the driver was uninsured. I.e. third party insurance and it was their fault

Modifications

All vehicles must comply with the manufacturer's original specification and with the requirements of the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended or replaced) and other relevant road traffic laws.

All hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles shall have an appropriate "type approval"

- European Whole Vehicle Type approval;
- British National Type approval
- British Single Vehicle Approval

Imported and Converted vehicles will require an SVA test irrespective of age.