

**GUIDELINES ON THE ASSESSMENT OF VEHICLES TO  
BE LICENSED AS HACKNEY CARRIAGES OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

The vehicle must, of course, comply with all statutory requirements and with the Council's conditions attached to Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licences, as appropriate. In addition, the following guidelines will apply:-

1. **Vehicle Suitability**

The vehicle should be of sufficient size as to be capable of seating at least four adult passengers (excluding the driver) in safety and comfort.

- (a) As a guide, in the case of saloon, estate and hatchback cars, the distance across the back seat measured from internal panel to internal panel, should be at least 52½", the only exception to this is the traditional London Cab e.g., FX4.
- (b) It has at least 4 doors (including drivers door).
- (c) The London Cab type vehicle is not acceptable as a private hire vehicle.

2. **Vehicle Body**

- (a) The body must be of the fixed head (i.e. not convertible) type.
- (b) The vehicle must be right hand drive.
- (c) Passenger doors should be capable of being readily opened from inside and outside the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism, though this must not prevent doors being fitted with child safety locks. In the case of saloon, estate and hatchback cars, there must be at least three passenger doors, with a separate additional door for the exclusive use of the driver.
- (d) (i) All vehicles must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 as amended, that specifies that the light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75% and the front side windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.  
  
(ii) Further all other windows including the rear window must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.

3. **Facilities for Driver**

The vehicle should be so designed and constructed that:-

- (a) The driver's seat accommodates the driver only and the driver has adequate room, can easily reach and operate the controls and give hand signals on the off-side of the vehicle.
- (b) At least one external driving mirror should be provided to each side of the vehicle and be so fitted and adjusted as to afford the driver an adequate view to the rear.
- (c) Adequate devices for de-misting and de-frosting the windscreen and rear window and for washing the windscreen are fitted.

4. **Ventilation**

Adequate ventilation must be provided for the driver and passenger either by windows or mechanical means.