

Appendix H

Vehicle Licence Application Process (including renewal of existing licences)

Applications for vehicle licences will only be accepted in relation to vehicles that comply with:

1. The Council's specification for private hire vehicles, or hackney carriages (as appropriate), and
2. The Council's Vehicle Age and Emissions Policy.

In making an application for a vehicle licence, applicants must submit the following:

- The vehicle application form;
- The appropriate fee;
- The original of the Vehicle Registration Document (Log Book/V5) certificate of registration for the vehicle (the new keeper's supplement section of the V5 document will be accepted in the case of vehicles that are not licensed at the time that the application is made, and the vehicle has recently been purchased by the applicant (documentary evidence will be required). Licences will not be renewed unless the full V5 document is made available to the council at the time of application);
- The original insurance certificate or insurance cover note for the vehicle (this document must be provided before the plate is issued to the applicant)
- Any vehicle not manufactured with European Whole Vehicle Type Approval will be required to undergo Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) testing and evidence of that testing and the vehicle having obtained SVA produced to the licensing office.

The vehicle must be submitted for examination at the Council's nominated inspection facility. This inspection will include an assessment of the vehicle's mechanical and aesthetic condition and will exceed the MOT standards set by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. The inspection is intended to assess the vehicle for licensing suitability. The Council will not issue an MOT certificate for the vehicle; however a Certificate of Compliance will be incorporated into the vehicle licence.

Vehicle licences will be valid for a period of 12 months (unless suspended, revoked or surrendered). Vehicles older than 3 years old on the day that the licence commences will be subject to at least one additional vehicle inspection at the Council's appointed testing facility during the period that the licence is in effect (this test is commonly referred to as an intermediate test). The frequency of vehicle inspections is based on age and detailed below:

Vehicles less than 3 years old on the day that the licence commences: 1 test per year

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Vehicles older than 3 years on the day that the licence commences, and less than 5 years old: 2 tests per year:

Vehicles older than 5 years on the day the licence commences: 3 tests per year

It is the licence holders' responsibility to ensure that intermediate tests are booked and attended. If a vehicle does not pass an intermediate test within four weeks of the test becoming due, then enforcement action will be taken to suspend the licence. The suspension will only be lifted once the vehicle has passed the intermediate test and the Council is satisfied that the vehicle is suitable for use as a licensed vehicle. The Council reserves the right to require a vehicle to be presented for testing / inspection at an appointed testing / inspection facility should the Council consider this to be necessary.

The person presenting the vehicle for inspection must submit to the vehicle inspector all necessary documents before the start of the vehicle examination.

In addition to the above, all vehicles are subject to an HPI check to see whether it has previously been written off. A check is completed every time an application is made for the vehicle (grant and / or renewal) – the Council will not licence a vehicle if it has ever been written off by an insurance company (category A, B, C or D).

Once the vehicle has been inspected, the inspection facility will confirm to the Licensing Office that a licensing inspection has taken place and the result of that inspection. This may be done by supplying the vehicle proprietor and the Licensing Office with the appropriate confirmation documentation.

This documentation must indicate to the proprietor of the vehicle

- if the vehicle “passed” or “failed” the inspection,
- what point(s) the vehicle failed on (where a failure is given),
- if a re-test inspection is required, and in what time scale this must be done (i.e. Within 48 hours or within 7 days) and how a re-test may be booked

Where a vehicle fails an inspection, the inspector must supply the proprietor and Licensing Officer with sufficient documentation to indicate what faults exist on the vehicle and are required to be rectified to enable the vehicle to pass a re-test (including body damage / dents / scratches or damage to fabrics / missing plates, notices or door signs). This document must be supplied to the proprietor of the vehicle at the end of that test inspection.

If a licence is not renewed prior to its expiry (or if a renewal application is received, but the application is not determined prior to the expiry of the licence) then that vehicle will no longer be able to lawfully operate as a licensed vehicle.