

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXPECTED STANDARDS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENSEES

1. The driver shall immediately on receipt of the licence, deliver the same for retention by the proprietor of the licensed hackney carriage, whilst such driver remains in his/her employ.
2. The driver shall, at all times when acting in accordance with this licence, wear, in such a position as to be plainly and distinctly visible, the badge issued to him/her by the Council pursuant to Section 54(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
3. The driver shall:
 - (a) Not smoke in the vehicle when the vehicle is available for hire or in use as such and shall request that passengers in the vehicle do not smoke.
 - (b) Not without the express consent of the hirer, drink or eat in the vehicle.
 - (c) Not without the express consent of the hirer, play any radio or sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle, other than for the purpose of sending or receiving messages in connection with the operation of the vehicle.
 - (d) at no time cause or permit the noise emitted by any radio or other previously mentioned equipment in the vehicle which he is driving, to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person, whether inside or outside the vehicle.
4. The driver shall not, without reasonable cause, unnecessarily prolong, in distance or in time, a journey for which the hackney carriage he or she is driving has been hired.
5. If the driver is not the proprietor of the hackney carriage he or she is driving or is in the charge of when the vehicle is involved in an accident, he or she shall report or cause to be reported to the proprietor of that vehicle, details of the accident in which the vehicle has been involved, as soon as possible after the occurrence of the accident and at the latest no more than 48 hours after the occurrence of the accident.
6. The driver must inform the Head of Democratic and Registration Services, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP, in writing within seven days of any motoring or other criminal conviction which has occurred since the granting of this licence.
7. The Hackney Carriage Driver's Badge shall be provided by, and at all times remain the property of, the Council and upon the Council suspending, revoking or refusing to renew this licence the driver shall, on demand, return the badge to the Head of Democratic and Registration Services, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP.

8. A medical certificate shall be produced by the driver within seven days of a request by the Council for such certificate and must do so annually after attaining 65 years of age.
9. If the driver has knowingly conveyed in a hackney carriage, the dead body of any person, he shall immediately thereafter notify the fact to the Council's Service Manager (Public Health).
10. The licensed vehicle being driven shall have signs affixed and maintained on the nearside and offside front or rear doors as supplied by the Council which will state "Bedford Taxi".
11. The driver of the licensed vehicle shall submit that vehicle to a safety check when required, on the demand of an authorised officer of the council or police officer and shall produce the vehicle at such place for such a check as may be notified by the officer.
12. Where indicated, the Licensee is also hereby authorised to drive a licensed vehicle as required in order to conform to a contract from the Council for transport services (e.g. School Transport). This authorisation is separate from the Hackney Carriage Driver Licence concerned and may be removed at any time by the Council as the commissioning party to such a contract. This separate authorisation is also subject to compliance with the requirements of the specific contract for transport services. This authorisation is indicated, if it applies, by the words "incorporating School Transport badge" on the face of the identification badge referred to in Condition 2 above. Where the said identification badge does not include the words "incorporating School Transport badge", the holder of this licence is not authorised to drive a licensed vehicle in pursuance of a contract with the Council for transport services.
13. The Council reserves the right to vary, delete or waive any of the foregoing conditions.

EXTRACTS FROM HACKNEY CARRIAGE BYELAWS

1. Every driver of a hackney carriage shall:-

When requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire (a hackney) carriage:
 - (a) Convey a reasonable quantity of luggage.
 - (b) Afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading.
 - (c) Afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any house, station, or place at which he may take up or set down such person.
2. The driver shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.

3. The driver shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in a hackney carriage a greater number of persons than that specified in the licence.
4. The driver shall, immediately after the termination of any hiring carefully search the (hackney) carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left there.
5. The driver shall, if any property is accidentally left in (the hackney carriage) by any person who may have been conveyed (in it) is found by or handed to him:
 - (i) Carry it within twenty four hours, if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, to a Police Station within the district, and leave it in the custody of the Officer in Charge (at the Police Station) on his giving a receipt for it.
 - (ii) Be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be re-delivered an amount equal to 5 pence in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to the Police Station, whichever be the greater) but not more than five pounds.
6. The driver of a hackney carriage who shall have agreed or shall have been hired to be in attendance with the (hackney) carriage at an appointed time shall, unless delayed, or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such (hackney) carriage at such appointed time and place
7. The driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire, shall not, by calling out or otherwise, importune any person to hire such carriage and shall not make use of the services of any other person for the purpose.
8. The driver of a hackney carriage plying for hire shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the (Council), the rate or fare being calculated by distance unless the hirer express(es) at the time of the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time, when the rate or fare shall be calculated by time on a basis to be agreed between the hirer and the driver at the commencement of the hiring. Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the driver of a hackney carriage shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of a taximeter save for any extra charges authorised (in the current table of fares and charges approved by the Council), which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.
9. Every driver of a hackney carriage provided with a taximeter shall:
 - (i) If the taximeter is fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "FOR HIRE":-
 - (a) When standing or plying for hire, keep such key, flag or other device locked in the position in which the words are horizontal and legible.
 - (b) As soon as the carriage is hired by distance, and before commencing the journey, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the flag or other device, so that the words are not conveniently legible.

- (c) Cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of a hiring which is during the hours of darkness as (referred to in Regulation 101 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended) made pursuant to the Road Traffic Act 1968) and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.
10. Every driver of a hackney carriage for which stands are fixed by a byelaw in that behalf shall, when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired:
- (a) Proceed with reasonable speed to and station the carriage on one of the stands.
 - (b) If a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand.
 - (c) On arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face in the same direction.
 - (d) From time to time, when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward, cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.
11. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine (not exceeding level 2 on the Standard Scale), and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding (level 2) for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefore.