

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONDITIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES

1. That the identifying plate issued in respect of the licensed hackney carriage shall be securely fitted at the **rear exterior** of the carriage in such a manner as to be plainly visible at all times when the carriage is being used, and in such manner as to be easily removable by an authorised officer of the Council or a Police Constable.
2. That the general sign (A6 in size) issued in respect of the licensed hackney carriage shall be affixed to the near side of the front windscreen so that the words "Bedford Taxi" are plainly and distinctly visible from the exterior of the carriage and the contact details for the Democratic & Registration Services of the Council are visible to passengers carried in the vehicle.
3. That the Proprietor(s) of the licensed hackney carriage shall supply and fit on the vehicle a roof sign and an interior windscreen sign bearing the words " For Hire", such latter sign to be illuminated at all times when the vehicle is plying for hire. Unless the vehicle is a purpose build London Style Cab, or otherwise has an integrated roof sign to the satisfaction of the Council's Chief officer for Democratic & Registration Services, the roof sign must be of 24" width bearing the words "Borough of Bedford – TAXI" in black lettering on a yellow background (from 16/09/1993).
4. That the vehicle to which this licence relates will be able to carry a passenger in a wheelchair (including providing for the passenger to board and alight in the same wheelchair) and that the exterior non-glass areas of the vehicle will be white in colour. By virtue of this condition, and where necessary, the Authority expects the Licensee to make all necessary arrangements to adapt the vehicle to comply with these requirements (from 01/01/2012 HDRS).
5. That the vehicle 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".
6. That in the case of an estate car type of vehicle being licensed as a hackney carriage, the proprietor(s) thereof shall fit the same with guard rails of a type approved by the Council to separate the rear loading area from passengers.
7. Ensure that immediate access is provided for all passengers to a door leading from the vehicle that can be opened by passengers in the vehicle. For immediate access to be maintained there must not be any luggage, other seats and other obstacles between the passenger and the door concerned. Reference to other obstacles does not apply to passengers seated on either side of a passenger seated in the rear mid seat of a normal saloon car.
8. That all forward facing seats in the vehicle be fitted with a seat belt complying with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations current at the time of testing.
9. That, without the prior approval of the Council, proprietors of licensed vehicles are prohibited from materially altering or changing the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle.

10. The following shall be provided and maintained in the hackney carriage at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire and shall be carried in such a position in the vehicle as to be available for immediate use in an emergency and readily visible (or a sign indicating where the item is kept if it is not visible):
 - 10.(a) A first aid kit with a minimum content specified by the Council
 - 10.(b) A 1.75/2.00 litre AFFF foam type or an 1.36kg dry powder type fire extinguisher conforming to British Standard BS5423.
11. If proprietorship of the vehicle changes or if the proprietor of the vehicle changes his address, notice must be given within 14 days to the Chief officer for Democratic & Registration Services, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP in writing and this licence must be returned for amendment.
12. The occurrence of any accident materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle must be reported in writing to the Chief Officer for Democratic & Registration Services, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP within 72 hours.
13. The proprietor shall within 14 days disclose to the Chief Officer for Democratic & Registration Services, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP in writing details of any conviction imposed on him (or, if the proprietor is a company or partnership, on any of the directors or partners) during the period of the licence.
14. The proprietor of the licensed vehicle shall maintain the vehicle at all times when it is in use, or available for hire and 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 a place for such a check as may be notified by that officer.
15. The proprietor(s) shall at all times comply with the Hackney Carriage Byelaws for the time being in force in the Borough.
16. If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a hackney carriage he shall, before that person commences to drive the vehicle, cause that person to deliver to him their hackney carriage driver's licence for retention until such time as the person ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle and shall record details of the licence in a register he shall keep for this purpose. The person's hackney carriage driver's licence shall be returned to that person upon request in order to comply with any requirement of an authorised officer of the Council or Police Constable or when the person ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle (from 16/01/2012 – HDRS).
17. The proprietor shall not at any time permit more passenger seats to be fitted in the vehicle than the maximum authorised number of passengers that can be carried in the vehicle by virtue of this licence (from 08/12/2011 – GLC).
18. That the vehicle shall not be used to undertake a journey with passengers other than to complete any such a journey it was undertaking at the time of the circumstances occurring.

The emergency spare wheel/tyre normally carried in the vehicle is used to replace a fitted wheel/tyre and no further spare wheel/tyre is carried in the vehicle.

Where a spare wheel/tyre is not normally carried in the vehicle but the tyres on the vehicle have “run on flat” technology fitted by the vehicle manufacturer and one tyre is the subject of a puncture (until such time as the wheel/tyre concerned is replaced).

Where a spare wheel/tyre is not normally carried in the vehicle and a tyre on the vehicle is subject to a puncture and a “tyre weld” system is carried and deployed (until such time as the wheel/tyre concerned is replaced). (From 08/12/2011 – GLC).

19. The Licensee(s) shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the licensed vehicle is fully roadworthy, safe, comfortable, insured and suitable to be so used. Such measures are likely to include, but not be limited to, requiring drivers to undertake checks on a daily basis of the vehicle, independent verification of the roadworthy condition of the vehicle after appropriate time spans or miles travelled by the vehicle, checks on insurance at due dates to ensure continuous proof of cover (such as upon cover note expiry dates or payment of premiums or part thereof) and valid licences for the vehicle being in force. Records of the steps taken in relation to this condition shall be kept for a minimum of six months from the date of the action, verification, check etc and shall be produced to an authorised officer of the council upon request (from 16/01/2012 – HRR).
20. The Council reserve the right to vary, delete or waive any of the foregoing conditions.

EXTRACTS FROM HACKNEY CARRIAGE BYELAWS

1. That the proprietor of the Licensed Vehicle shall not permit a greater number of persons to be conveyed in the vehicle than that prescribed in the Licence for the vehicle, provided however, that for this purpose a child in arms shall be discounted.
2. Every proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:
 - 2.(a) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver.
 - 2.(b) Cause the roof or covering to be kept water-tight.
 - 2.(c) Provide all necessary windows and a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side.
 - 2.(d) Cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered.
 - 2.(e) Cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering.
 - 2.(f) Cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service.
 - 2.(g) Provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage.
 - 2.(h) Provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver and
 - 2.(i) If such hackney carriage is mechanically propelled, provide an efficient fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use. (Condition 7 of the Hackney Carriage Licence requires that the fire extinguisher shall be either a 1.75/2.00 litre AFFF foam type or a 1.36 kg dry powder type conforming to British Standard BS5423.
3. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the same to be provided with a taximeter so constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirement, that it is to say:
 - 3.(a) The taximeter shall be fitted with a key, flag or other device the operation of which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word "HIRED" to appear on the face of the taximeter.
 - 3.(b) Such key, flag or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter.
 - 3.(c) When the machinery of the taxi meter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in clearly legible figures a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by distance in pursuance of the byelaw in that behalf.

- 3.(d) The word “fare” shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon.
- 3.(e) The taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof are at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring.
- 3.(f) The taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with the seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.
- 4.(i) Every proprietor of a hackney carriage plying for hire for any fares are fixed by the Council in accordance with the byelaws shall:
 - 4.(a) Cause the fares card supplied by the Council to be displayed inside the vehicle in such a manner as to be plainly and distinctly visible to passengers at all times.
 - 4.(b) Renew such fares card as often as is necessary to ensure that it is clearly eligible.
- 4.(ii) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the hackney carriage is being used for hire.
5. 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 the conviction therefore.