



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCES

1. That the identifying plate issued in respect of the licensed vehicle shall be securely fitted at the **rear exterior** of the vehicle in such a manner as to be plainly visible at all times when the vehicle is being used as a licensed vehicle save as specified by Section 75 of the 1976 Act, and in such manner as to be easily removable by an authorised officer of the Council or a Constable.
2. That the identifying disc issued in respect of the licensed vehicle shall be affixed to the near side of the front windscreen so that the information thereon is plainly and distinctly visible from the exterior of the vehicle.
3. That the vehicle shall have signs of approximately 210 mm x 297 mm size affixed and maintained on the nearside and offside front or rear doors as supplied by the licensing authority and these signs shall state only "Private Hire Vehicle" "No booking, No Insurance" "Advance Booking Only" and "Licensed by Bedford Borough Council, 3rd Floor Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford" and be green and white in colour.
4. That no signs or advertisements bearing the words "Taxi", "Cab", "Taxi-cab" or "For Hire" nor any word or combination of letters which when pronounced would sound similar to such words shall be exhibited on any licensed private hire vehicle.
- 5.(1) From 1 October 2004 the Licensed vehicle must be fitted with a roof sign which shall be of a design approved in writing by Bedford Borough Council and shall comply with the following specifications as set out in sub-paragraphs (a)-(e):
 - (a) The dimension of the roof sign shall be a minimum of 600mm in length and a maximum of 620mm in length. The depth of the sign shall be a minimum of 140mm and a maximum of 160mm. The minimum height of the sign shall be 160mm and the maximum height 180mm.
 - (b) The roof sign shall comprise a green background to the front, top and sides with black lettering only. The rear of the sign shall be black in colour showing red lettering only.
 - (c) Front Elevation
The front elevation of the sign shall include in descending order the operator's trading name and telephone number and the words "ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY". The operator's trading name and telephone number must be in letters and numbers respectively, the height and width of each letter or number must not exceed 40mm; followed by the wording "ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY" which must be in letters of not less than 25mm in height and width.
 - (d) Side Elevations
The word "PLATE" and Licence number must be displayed on the left and right side elevations of the roof sign. The word "PLATE" must be in letters not less than 17mm in height and the Licence number must be in letters not less than 28mm in height and width.
 - (e) Rear Elevation
The rear elevation of the roof sign shall include the following in descending order:
 - (i) The words "private hire vehicle" in letters not less than 28mm in height and width followed by the words "LICENSED BY BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL TO CARRY X PASSENGERS". The letters must be a minimum of 17mm both in height and width. "X" must be substituted by the specified number of persons to be carried as stated in the Private Hire Vehicle Licence.

- (ii) The word "PLATE" must be displayed on the right side of the roof sign when viewed from the rear of the vehicle and must be in lettering of not less than 20mm in height and width. The Licence number must be in numbers not less than 30mm in height and width.
 - (iii) The registration number displayed on the vehicle must be displayed at the rear of the roof sign and be preceded by "REG NO." and must be in letters and numbers not less than 20mm nor greater than 25mm in height and width.
- 5.(2) Nothing other than words and figures specified in these conditions shall appear or be displayed on the roof sign.
- 5.(3) The roof sign must only be illuminated only when the vehicle's head lights are activated.
- 5.(4) The letters and figures displayed on the roof sign must be maintained in a legible condition at all times.
- 5.(5) The roof sign must be displayed on the roof of the vehicle at all times whilst the vehicle is licensed by Bedford Borough council as a Private Hire Vehicle. If the Private Hire Vehicle licence is suspended or revoked for any reason the licensee shall remove the roof sign forthwith.
- 6. That all forward facing seats in the vehicle be fitted with a seat belt complying with the Road Vehicles (Constructions and Use) Regulations current at the time of testing.
- 7. The proprietor shall at all times cause to be clearly displayed and maintained inside the vehicle in such a position as to be readable by passengers the card provided by the Council showing therein the number of the licence and the number of passengers prescribed in this licence.
- 8. 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 and two children below the age of 12 years may be counted as one person insofar as the rear seating only is concerned.
Children under the age of 12 years may not be counted as half an adult for the purpose of reckoning the number of passengers permitted in a licensed vehicle.
- 9. That, in the case of an estate car type vehicle licensed as a private hire vehicle, the proprietor(s) thereof shall fit same with guard rails of a type approved by the Chief Officer for Democratic & Registration Services, Bedford Borough Council, 3rd Floor Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP to separate the rear loading area from passengers.
- 10. That, the vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire be kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition and all relevant statutory requirements (including in particular those contained in Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations) shall be fully complied with.
- 11. That, without the prior approval of the Chief Officer for Democratic & Registration Services, proprietors of Licensed vehicles are prohibited from materially altering or changing the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle.
- 12. The following shall be provided and maintained in the vehicle at all times when it is in use and available for private 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):
 - (a) A first aid kit with a minimum content specified by the Council;
 - (b) A 1.75/2.00 litre AFFF foam type or a 1.36kg dry powder type fire extinguisher conforming to British Standard BS5423.
- 13. If proprietorship of the vehicle changes or if the proprietor of the vehicle changes his address, notice must be given in writing within 14 days to the Chief Officer for Democratic & Registration Services, Bedford

Borough Council, 3rd Floor Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP and this licence must be returned for amendment.

14. 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, 3rd Floor Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP within 72 hours.
15. The proprietor shall within seven days disclose to the Council 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.
16. If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a private hire vehicle, he shall before that person commences to drive the vehicle cause the driver to deliver to him his private hire driver's licence for retention until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of his.
17. Every proprietor of a private hire vehicle shall:
 - (a) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the vehicle may communicate with the driver;
 - (b) Cause the roof or covering to be kept watertight;
 - (c) Provide any necessary windows and a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side;
 - (d) Cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered;
 - (e) Cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering;
 - (f) Cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
 - (g) Provide means for securing luggage if the vehicle is so constructed as to carry luggage; and
 - (h) Provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such vehicle and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver.
 - (i) 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.
18. 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.
19. The Council reserves the right to vary, delete or waive any of the foregoing conditions.