

**Conditions relating to
PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCES**

**LICENSING CONDITIONS
LAST UPDATED: FEBRUARY 2005**

These conditions supercede any previously issued handbooks or conditions leaflet.

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CONDITIONS

Private Hire Car Licences

1. The holder of a private hire car licence shall use as a private hire car a four door saloon, five door hatchback or estate vehicle with a minimum width across the back seat of 48 inches and an engine capacity 1600cc or greater, or alternatively a multi person vehicle (MPV) of a type approved by the licensing authority. From 1 January 2002 all vehicles to be licensed as private hire cars shall be:
 - (i) any colour other than white; and
 - (ii) less than 5 years old from the date of first registration, unless the vehicle is a multi person vehicle (MPV) and wheelchair accessible where that vehicle shall be less than 8 years from the date of first registration.
2. The holder of a private hire car licence shall ensure that the private hire car, including all bodywork, upholstery and fittings, is in a safe and serviceable condition and, subject to prevailing road conditions, is in a clean condition.
3. The holder of a private hire car licence shall require the private hire car to undergo and pass an annual inspection by the licensing authority. On receiving the requisite notice, in writing, he shall produce his private hire car for examination at such time and place as may be reasonably required by the licensing authority.
4. The holder of a private hire car licence, when the private hire car is damaged in a vehicular accident or by any other means, shall report the damage to the licensing authority as soon as practicable and, if the private hire car is roadworthy, he shall present it for inspection within the following two working days (being days on which the testing facilities operate) after the occurrence. As soon as repairs to the vehicle have been completed the private hire car shall again be presented for inspection.
5. The holder of a private hire car licence shall not ask a driver of a private hire car to do anything which would result in the driver committing a breach of the conditions attaching to the grant of the private hire car driver's licence.
6. The holder of a private hire car licence shall keep or cause to be kept an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of all private hire car drivers employed by him and of all private hire car drivers who, whether for payment or otherwise, are authorised by the holder of the licence to use the private hire car for the purpose of conveying fare paying passengers.
7. The holder of a private hire car licence shall hold in his name the requisite vehicle registration document and shall also hold and produce to the licensing authority on demand a certificate of comprehensive insurance in relation to the private hire car as required by Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Where more than one name appears on the private hire car licence the vehicle registration document shall be in at least one of those names.

8. The holder of a private hire car licence may at any time during the currency of his licence be called upon to exhibit to the licensing authority the registration document and current M.O.T certificate relating to the licensed vehicle and the certificate of insurance for the vehicle as will satisfy the licensing authority that the vehicle is currently insured and has been continuously insured throughout the full currency of the licence and he shall at all times be in a position to exhibit such documents.
9. The holder of a private hire car licence shall ensure that, while the vehicle is in use as a private hire car, any plates or other items which have been issued by the licensing authority for the purpose of indicating that the vehicle is a private hire car, are displayed at all times in positions approved by the licensing authority.
10. The holder to a private hire car licence shall not obliterate or deface any plate or other item which has been issued by the licensing authority for the purpose of indicating that the vehicle is a private hire car and which is fitted to the private hire car. If any such plate or item becomes obliterated or defaced so as not to be distinctly visible or legible or if any such plate or item is lost, the holder of the private hire car licence shall report this to the licensing authority as soon as practicable and obtain from the licensing authority a replacement plate or other item.
11. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall obtain from the licensing authority a notice detailing the approved maximum fares and charges appropriate for exclusive and shared use of a taxi and shall display the notice in the passenger compartment of the private hire car in such a position that it will be readily visible to the passengers being carried and no other notice of fares and charges shall be displayed.
12. The holder of a private hire car licence shall, if the cost of the journey is not regulated by a licensing authority fare structure, take steps to ensure that any potential hirer of his private hire car is informed, prior to acceptance of the hire:
 - (a) that the fare is not so regulated; and
 - (b) the cost or method of calculating the cost of the proposed journey.
13. The holder of a private hire car licence shall take steps to ensure that each potential hirer of his private hire car consents, at the time of the arrangement of the hire, to an exclusive hire or a share hire, as the case may be.
14. The holder of a private hire car licence shall not display on his private hire car any signs for the purpose of advertising its services as a private hire car, other than those approved by the licensing authority.
15. The holder of a private hire car licence shall not display a roof sign of any kind on his private hire car.
16. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall not use or cause or permit to be used on the private hire car a road wheel or type of a different circumference from that for which any taximeter affected to the private hire car was designed, geared and has been tested by the licensing authority.
17. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall have affixed to an used on the private hire car only a taximeter which has been approved by the licensing authority.

18. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter which has been stamped or sealed by the licensing authority after testing as respects distance and time shall comply with the approved taxi fares and charges. Once a taximeter is fitted to his private hire car he shall not tamper with the taximeter or break or tamper with any seal or stamp on such taximeter or any attachment affixed thereto by the manufacturer or licensing authority except to remove the taximeter for repair or replacement. Should the seal be broken the taximeter shall be re-tested and passed by or on behalf of the licensing authority.
19. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall ensure that the taximeter is in a position approved by the licensing authority.
20. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall not knowingly operate the vehicle, or cause or permit it to be operated while the seals affixed to the taximeter are broken or detached.
21. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall not knowingly use or cause or permit to be used a taximeter which is in any way defective.
22. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car is fitted with a taximeter shall, within two working days, inform the licensing authority of the removal of the taximeter from his private hire car. He shall not re-fit a taximeter on a second or subsequent occasion without prior permission from the licensing authority except when the private hire car is due to be annually tested by the licensing authority.
23. The holder of a private hire car licence must carry in a suitable fastener in his private hire car a fire extinguisher of a type, and in a position, approved by the licensing authority. The expiry date of the extinguisher must be at least one year from the date of the last inspection of the private hire car.
24. The holder of a private hire car licence whose private hire car ceases to be kept for hire or who ceases to act as a private hire car operator for any part of the unexpired period of his licence shall within seven days thereafter surrender his licence to the licensing department of Renfrewshire Council in writing and any plates or other item issued to him in relation to the said licence.
25. The holder of a private hire car licence shall not have installed in the private hire car a two-way radio or similar device the base of operation or control point of which is situated outwith the boundary of Renfrewshire Council.
26. In these conditions:-
 - “exclusive”, as applied to the hire of a private hire car, means that a single fare is payable by any one passenger, whether or not more than one passenger is carried, and “exclusive hire” shall be construed accordingly
 - “shared” as applied to the hire of a private hire car, means that each passenger is carried at a separate fare, payable to the driver, and “shared hire” shall be construed accordingly.
27. No notice, advertisement, printed bill or other item shall be displayed on the outside or inside of a private hire car, without the prior consent of the Licensing Authority.