

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE SPECIFICATION FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES



The following specification will apply to any additional vehicle presented for licensing as a hackney carriage in Ipswich under the approved policy of deregulation implemented with effect from July 2005.

1. General Requirements

- (a) Any vehicle that has been modified to accommodate disabled passengers shall have been retested after modification, to meet European Whole Vehicle Type Approval standards in the M1 category (or the low volume standard for United Kingdom vehicles) in respect of all such modifications.
- (b) Vehicles with the steering wheel on the nearside of the vehicle will not be accepted.
- (c) The vehicle must be no older than 4 years of age, taken from its date of registration to the date when first licensed.
- (d) All vehicles must be so constructed as to facilitate the carriage of mobility impaired persons and be capable of accommodating a person in a wheelchair in the passenger compartment, provided the wheelchair fits within the dimensions specified at 2 below.
- (e) All vehicles must have a fixed bulkhead/drivers safety screen separating the driver and passenger compartment. The upper section of the bulkhead/drivers safety screen shall contain a clear vision panel sufficient for the driver to be able to see a substantial amount of the passenger compartment, which must include vision of all access doors. This vision panel section of the bulkhead shall be constructed of safety glass to the standard required for windscreens laid down in Regulations of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 or any clear material with at least the same impact resistance and safety qualities as that safety glass. The safety screen shall allow verbal communication between the driver and passenger compartments and for the driver to safely accept the payment of a fare.
- (f) All vehicles must be capable of complying with the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Conditions of Licence.

2. Passenger Compartment

- (a) The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and roof must be not less than 52" (1.32 metres)
- (b) There shall be sufficient space between the bulkhead and the rear seat, at footrest height of a wheelchair and the occupant's feet, to facilitate the wheelchair being loaded and positioned ready for the vehicle to drive off. (The rear seat may be raised to provide this measurement).
- (c) The passenger compartment shall have a minimum of two means of access/egress.
- (d) Interior lighting of the passenger compartment must be provided sufficient to light the whole of that area. These lights shall be switched such that they can be turned on or off from either the passenger or driver compartments.
- (e) The passenger compartment shall have windows fitted on both sides; one on each side must be capable of being opened by the passenger and/or the driver.
- (f) A non-slip material must be used for the surface of the flooring in the passenger compartment.

3. Doorways

- (a) The clear height of the passenger entrance doorway must be not less than 49" (1245mm) when measured directly between the highest and lowest points of the doorway.
- (b) The clear width of the passenger entrance at its widest point must be not less than 31" (787mm). Interior fittings shall not intrude into the doorway to a degree, which would prevent reasonable wheelchair access.
- (c) High visibility grab handles must be placed at passenger entrances to aid access and egress from the vehicle

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- (d) If the floor height of the passenger compartment exceeds 12” (305mm) from the ground when the vehicle is unladen then an intermediate step must be provided. This step must have a minimum depth of 6” (152mm) and must be covered with a non-slip material. It must be fitted in such a manner that the vehicle can not be driven off while the step is deployed and in a position where it extends beyond the vertical line of the bodywork.
- (e) All entrance steps into the passenger compartment shall be illuminated and switched such that they automatically operate when the door is opened.
- (f) The edge of the floor at the passenger entrance and the vertical part of any intermediate step must be marked with high visibility material.

4. Seating

- (a) Only forward or rearward facing seats will be allowed.
- (b) All seats must have a minimum cushioned area of 16” (406mm) width and 14” (355mm) from front to rear.
- (c) Occasional seats must be capable of rising automatically when not in use and must not obstruct doorways.
- (d) All forward facing passenger seats shall be provided with lap and diagonal seat belts. Rearward facing seats must have a minimum of lap belt restraints with anchorage points tested to M3 standard.

5. Facilities for Wheelchair Users

- (a) A ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be available for use on the nearside passenger door, the surface of which must be finished with a non-slip material.
- (b) An adequate locking device must be fitted to ensure that the ramp/s do not slip or tilt when in use and have a minimum safe working load of 250 kg.
- (b) Provision must be made for the safe storage of the ramp/s when not in use.
- (c) A system for the effective anchorage of a wheelchair, which complies with M1 standards, together with a separate system for the wheelchair occupant, shall be provided.

6. Ancillary Equipment

- (a) To aid easy identification of taxis by the public, if in the opinion of an ‘authorised officer’ of the Council a vehicle due to its body shape and design is not easily recognisable as a taxi then the vehicle will be required to: -
 - (i) Be fitted with an approved roof sign not less than 18 inches in width which must be capable of being illuminated; and / or
 - (ii) display the word ‘TAXI’ in letters not less than 4.5 inches high which must be in black or a colour contrasting to the colour scheme of the vehicle and must be displayed on both sides and the rear of the vehicle in a position where they can clearly be seen.
- (b) There shall be fitted an intercom type system to permit the driver and passenger/s to communicate verbally.
- (c) If the vehicle is fitted with sliding doors the interior door handle must be clearly visible and easily accessible to passengers when the door is fully open. All doors must have approved reflective strips on both the front and rear edge of the door. The vehicle must be equipped with a sign clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle displaying the words ‘Door Open’ the size of the sign shall not be less than 400 square centimetres and shall be so positioned so as not to impair rear vision. This sign must be automatically linked to the passenger doors in order that when either door handle is activated to open the door the sign is illuminated.