

Vehicle Age and Emissions Standards

The purpose of these standards are to ensure Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles are as safe, reliable and comfortable as possible while at the same time minimising emissions. The standards aim to have a positive impact on emissions as it is recognised that the age of vehicles and the exhaust emission specification are critical to the level of pollutants emitted. Consequently, to improve air quality and reduce emissions from the taxi fleet, standards relating to the exhaust emissions have been introduced in addition to the requirements regarding the age of vehicles.

In order to be licensed, a vehicle must **meet both the age and emissions criteria**.

Applications to licence vehicles which fall outside of the standards will be considered on their own merits.

Vehicle Age

At first application – A new licensed vehicle must be less than 5 years old from the date of the first DVLA registration.

At renewal - Vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that was first registered more than 10 years prior to the date of renewal or 12 years in the case of purpose-built or fully wheelchair accessible vehicles. This applies where a vehicle is currently licensed and there is no break in licensing.

A vehicle may be considered for a licence renewal beyond these upper age limits if it is in 'exceptional condition'. The criteria for meeting this standard are below.

All vehicles age 5 years (from the date of first DVLA registration) will be subject to six monthly MOT inspections.

Exceptional Condition Criteria

A vehicle will be considered to be in 'exceptional condition' if **ALL** of the following apply:

1. The vehicle must not have failed the Council's vehicle inspection or standard MOT on any significant item within the previous five years. For the purposes of this criterion, a significant item is defined as any item that would cost more than £30.00 to correct.
2. The bodywork is in near perfect condition with no signs of panel age deterioration, dents, scratches, stone chips, or rust or any other abrasions that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.
3. The general paint condition should show no signs of fading, discolouration or mismatching that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.
4. The interior trim, panels, seating and carpets and upholstery are in excellent condition, clean and free from damage and discolouration.
5. The boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and undamaged.
6. Passenger areas are free from damp and any unpleasant odours that may cause passenger discomfort.
7. The vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition and in all respects be safe and roadworthy, with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or bodywork.
8. The vehicle must have a complete service record to show that it has been properly serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's service specification.
9. The vehicle passes the council's vehicle inspection.

The first eight criteria will be checked by an officer of the Council and the proprietor of the vehicle must provide all the necessary documentation to support their request for a vehicle licence to be granted outside of this policy. An appointment will need to be made for this and a fee will be charged.

If the first eight criteria are satisfied then the proprietor of the vehicle must book and pay for the Council's approved vehicle inspection from a nominated garage and produce the pass certificate to the Council.

Emissions Standards

At first application – 01/04/2020 Vehicles must meet one of the following:

Euro 4 emissions standards.

ULEV Petrol Hybrid Euro 5 +

Petrol Euro 5 + (Any vehicle registered from 1st Sept 2009 onwards)

Diesel Euro 6 + (Any vehicle registered from 1st Sept 2014 onwards)

From 01/04/2022 vehicles must meet the following:

ULEV Petrol Hybrid Euro 5 +

Petrol Euro 5 + (Any vehicle registered from 1st Sept 2009 onwards)

Diesel Euro 6 + (Any vehicle registered from 1st Sept 2014 onwards)

At Renewal

From 01/12/2020 vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that does not meet or exceed Euro 4 emissions standards.

From 01/04/2025 vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that does not meet the following:

ULEV Petrol Hybrid Euro 5+

Petrol Euro 5 +

Diesel Euro 6 +

(including vehicles adapted with a retrofit to an agreed approved standard & hackneys only may apply for departure from policy)

From 2032 all new and renewal vehicles must meet the following:

ULEV Petrol Hybrid Euro 5+

Notwithstanding that each application will be considered on its own merits.

+ Includes all vehicles that will meet a higher standard than the euro emission standard specified

ULEV = Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (<75g/km and 10km zero emission capability)

The Council will consider & implement incentives to promote the cleanest technologies - less than 75 g/km and at least 10 km zero emissions

When will the different criteria be applied?

If the licence of a currently licensed Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle is allowed to **EXPIRE** by its proprietor then any subsequent application will **NOT** be considered as a renewal. This means that where an existing vehicle licences expires, a subsequent application

for a licence for that vehicle will be treated as a first time application and the standards and criteria relating to first time applications will be applied.

Low Emission and Electric Vehicles

The Council encourages the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles within the District and proposed to finally implement all vehicles to be ultra-low emissions by 2032. The authority will seek to examine the feasibility of introducing schemes which help improve the charging network and assist drivers and operators to make decisions when purchasing new vehicles. Rapid re-charging points for use by the public will be available within the district from 2020.