

MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT GUIDANCE NOTES

Applicants for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire/School Transport Driver Licences (Passenger Carrying Vehicle Entitlement)

All new applicants have a medical to make sure they are well enough to drive a taxi, private hire or school transport vehicle. After that, licensed drivers are examined according to their age:

- under 60, every five years
- aged 60 to 70, every two years
- over 70, every year,
- and some drivers may be examined more frequently if required.

You **must** return this Medical Report completed by a Doctor. You are required to complete this form so that Reading Borough Council can verify your fitness to drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire/School Transport vehicles. This Medical Report will be retained until it is superseded.

Return by post to Licensing, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU or alternatively, you may scan and e-mail it to licensing@reading.gov.uk

A. What you have to do

1. **BEFORE** consulting your Doctor please read the notes overleaf at **Section C, Medical standards for Drivers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4.**
2. If, after reading the notes, you have any doubts about your ability to meet medical or eyesight standards, consult your Doctor/Optician **before** you arrange for this medical form to be completed. The Doctor will normally charge you for completing it. In the event of your application being refused, the fee you pay the Doctor is **not** refundable. Reading Borough Council has **no** responsibility for the fee payable to the Doctor.
3. Complete Sections 8 and Section 9 of the Medical Examination Report **but these must be completed in the presence of the Doctor carrying out the examination.**
4. The Licensing Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU must receive this report within 4 months of the Doctor signing the report.

B. What the doctor has to do

1. Please arrange for the patient to be seen and examined.
2. Please complete section 1-7 and 10 of the Medical Examination Report. You may find it helpful to consult DVLA's "At a Glance" and the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention booklet - "Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive".
3. Applicants who may be asymptomatic at the time of the examination should be advised that, if in the future they develop symptoms of a condition which could affect safe driving and they hold a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire/School Transport Drivers Licence, Reading Borough Council should be informed immediately.
4. Please ensure you complete all the sections of the report.

If this report does not bring out important clinical details with respect to the patient's ability to drive, please give details in section 7.

C. Medical Standards for drivers of Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire/School Transport Vehicles

Reading Borough Council requires that drivers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles achieve a higher standard of medical fitness than car drivers. The standard required by the Council is the same standard applied by the DVLA to the grant of Public Service and Heavy Goods Vehicle Licences and is known as a 'Group 2' level of medical fitness. The conditions in sections 1 to 4 below, are a bar to holding a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire/School Transport Drivers Licence.

1. Epileptic Attack

Applicants must have been free of epileptic seizures for at least the last ten years and have not taken anti epileptic medication during this ten year period. Reading Borough Council must refuse or revoke the licence if these conditions cannot be met.

2 Diabetes

Insulin treated diabetics may **not** obtain a licence unless they held a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence valid at 1 April 1991 and the Licensing Authority who issued the licence, had knowledge of the insulin treatment before 1 January 1991.

3 Eyesight

All applicants, for whatever category of vehicle, must be able to read in good daylight a number plate at 20.5 metres (67 feet), and, if glasses or corrective lenses are required to do so, these must be worn while driving. In addition:

- (i) Applicants for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licences must have:
- A visual acuity of at least 6/9 in the better eye; and
 - A visual acuity of at least 6/12 in the worse eye; and
 - If these are achieved by correction the uncorrected visual acuity in each eye must be no less than 3/60.

An applicant who held a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence before 1 January 1997 and who has an uncorrected acuity of less than 3/60 in only one eye may be able to meet the required standard and should check with Reading Borough Council about the requirement.

An applicant who has held a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence before 1 March 1992 but who does not meet the standard in (i) above may still qualify for a licence. Information about the standard and other requirements can be obtained from Reading Borough Council.

- (ii) Applicants are also banned from holding Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licences if they have:
- Uncontrolled Diplopia (double vision)
 - Or do not have a normal binocular field of vision

An applicant (or existing licence holder) failing to meet the epilepsy, diabetes or eyesight regulations must be refused.

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4 Other Medical Conditions

In addition to those medical conditions covered above, applicants (or licence holders) are likely to be refused if they are unable to meet the national recommended guidelines in the following cases:-

- Within 3 months of Myocardial Infarction, any episode of unstable Angina, CABG or Coronary Angioplasty;
- A significant disturbance of cardiac rhythm occurring within the past 5 years unless special criteria are met;
- Suffering from or receiving medication for angina or heart failure;
- Hypertension where BP is persistently 180 systolic or over, 11 diastolic or over;
- A stroke, or TIA within the last 12 months;
- Unexplained loss of consciousness within the past 5 years;
- Meniere's and other conditions causing disabling vertigo, within the past 1 year, and with a liability to recurrence;
- Parkinson's Disease, multiple sclerosis or other "chronic" neurological disorders likely to affect limb power and co-ordination;
- Suffering from a psychotic illness in the past 3 years, or suffering from Dementia;
- Alcohol dependency or misuse, or persistent drug or substance misuse or dependency in the past 3 years;
- Insuperable difficulty in communicating by telephone in an emergency;
- Any other serious medical condition which may cause problems for road safety when driving a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle;
- if major psychotropic or neuroleptic medication is being taken;
- Any malignant condition within the last 2 years likely to metastasise to the brain e.g. Ca lung of lung or malignant melanoma.