

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specifications

Vehicle emissions and age policy

Hackney Carriage Emissions & Age Policy 14th Nov 2024 to 1st Oct 2035 <i>*unless reviewed earlier</i>	
Dates	Policy
23 October 2023	All replacement vehicles must be less than 8 years old and minimum of Euro 5b. This rule applies regardless of whether the vehicle is new to fleet or an existing vehicle. The maximum age limit is 12 years.
01 October 2028	<p>All replacement vehicles are minimum ULEV and less than 7 years old. This rule will apply regardless of whether the vehicle is new to fleet or an existing vehicle.</p> <p>Age limit for ULEV vehicles to be set at a maximum 15yrs and then removed from fleet. *Each vehicle shall be assessed on its own merit and an extension of a year to a maximum of 3 additional years might be granted on renewal of the licence after a successful RBC compliance test.</p> <p>That the revised Hackney Carriage Vehicle Emissions and Age Policy run until 2035 at which point it would be reviewed again unless changes prompt a review sooner.</p>

Specifications

In addition to those in the table above, the vehicle must meet the following specifications:

1. Complies with the Public Carriage Office, Hackney Carriage Specification “Conditions of fitness”, as amended appropriate to Reading Borough Council;
2. Has means to facilitate the carriage of chair bound disabled persons;
3. Is of the manufacturer’s colours or Council approved advertising livery;
4. All hackney carriages must be purpose built to the London standards of fitness specifications in respect of roof signs including the turning circle.
5. All roof signs shall be built into the design of the hackney carriage vehicle. No aftermarket roof signs are permitted.
6. All Mercedes Vito Taxis be fitted with the Mercedes Taxi Graphic Pack (must be light reflective) prior to being licensed as hackney carriages in Reading;
7. the vehicle must be capable of carrying no fewer than four passengers and no more than eight;
8. each passenger seat shall be fitted with a seat belt;
9. the vehicle will be right hand drive;
10. the vehicle will have four wheels;
11. the vehicle must have sufficient space to carry a reasonable amount of luggage.
12. Windows must meet the following standards:
 - Windscreens: must let in at least 75% of the light
 - Front, side windows: must let in at least 70% of the light

- Rear, side windows: must let in at least 65% of the light
- Rear screen windows: must let in at least 65% of the light

Where currently licensed vehicles have factory tinted/privacy glass fitted and can provide documentary evidence of this, they will remain licensed for as long as required assuming they meet the rest of this policy. Where currently licensed vehicles have had a tinted film fitted to the vehicle (i.e. not factory fitted at time of manufacture), they will be required to have the film removed. Failure to do so will result in the vehicle licence being suspended until rectified.