

**PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE OPERATOR LICENCE
POLICY AND CONDITIONS
From 26th August 2009**



PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE POLICY

1. Before a licence is granted to a private hire vehicle operator, the applicant must:-
 - 1.1 complete and submit to the City Council an application in the form prescribed by the Council, and
 - 1.2 satisfy the Council that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence.

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE CONDITIONS

General

The holder of a private hire vehicle operator's licence must observe and carry out the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Part II, and any order or regulation made thereunder, and the requirements of any other Act of Parliament or orders, regulations or byelaws made thereunder relating to the operation of the motor vehicle(s) used by him

Interpretation

In this licence and in this document, unless the subject or context otherwise requires:-

- "authorised officer" means any officer of the Council authorised in writing by the Director of Law and Administration of the Council for the purposes of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;
- "the Council" means the Southampton City Council;
- "hackney carriage" has the same meaning as in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847;
- "licence plate" means the plate issued by the Council for the purpose of identifying the vehicle as a private hire vehicle duly licensed by the Council;
- "proprietor" includes a part-proprietor and, in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of hire purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle.

The proprietor shall observe and carry out the following terms and conditions:-

2. Transfer of licence

- 2.1 The licence is not transferable to another person nor does it authorise the licensee to operate from any address(es) other than that (those) specified in the licence.

3. Number of Passengers

- 3.1 The licensee shall not convey, or cause or permit to be conveyed in the vehicle a greater number of persons, exclusive of the driver, than specified in the licence. In addition, children under three years will not be conveyed in the front seat of a vehicle whether restrained or unrestrained.

4. Records of Bookings

- 4.1 An operator shall maintain a record book in a form required by the Council and to enter or arrange to be entered, the details required at (a) to (d) below. Such record book shall be produced to an authorised officer of the council or any police officer for inspection
- 4.2 All record books shall be maintained for at least 12 months. The record book shall contain the following information as to each booking.
- 4.2.1 Name of person making booking, name and address of passenger and place where passenger is to be picked up;
- 4.2.2 time and date when passenger is to be picked up;
- 4.2.3 and destination;
- 4.2.4 licence number of private hire vehicle so used.

5. Contracts

- 5.1 Every contract for the hire of a private hire vehicle licensed by the Council shall be deemed to be made with the operator who accepted the booking for that vehicle, whether or not the operator provided the vehicle

6. Employment of Drivers

- 6.1 The operator shall notify the Licensing Authority in writing within seven days of the commencement or termination of employment of any driver or owner driver in their employ.

7. Disabled Persons

- 7.1 No person shall refuse to carry a passenger in a private hire vehicle by reason of the fact that that passenger is disabled or requires to have with them a wheelchair or other facility of reasonable size for the disabled

8. Use of Premises

- 8.1 The licence holder while carrying on the business of an operator must ensure that the use of the office premises complies with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 and Orders and Regulations made thereunder.
- 8.2 The licence holder, while carrying on the business of an operator, shall not permit licensed private hire vehicles to obstruct entrances to adjoining premises, and will ensure that such vehicles, when not in use, will be parked off the highway.
- 8.3 The licence holder will not permit annoyance or interference to be caused to residents of adjoining premises by the use of radio communication apparatus.

9. Change of Address

- 9.1 The operator shall, within seven days, notify in writing to the Council any change of his address (including any address from which he operates or otherwise conducts his business as an operator).

10. Convictions

- 10.1 The operator shall, within seven days, disclose to the Council in writing details of any conviction imposed on him.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please note that this information does not form part of Southampton City Council's licence policy or conditions

Drivers, proprietors and operators of licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are reminded of the other statutory duties and restriction placed on them, amongst which are the following:

Smoking

The Health Act 2006 prohibits the smoking of tobacco or any other substance by anyone in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle. The legislation applies at all times whilst the vehicle remains licensed, thus smoking remains prohibited when the vehicle is not hired or not for hire.



Every licensed vehicle is required to carry appropriate signage under the Smokefree (Signs) Regulations 2007. Guidance and signs are available from:

<http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/resources/guidance-and-signage.html>

Assistance Dogs

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 imposes a duty on licensed drivers and operators to convey any guide, hearing or other assistance dog in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

Drivers must:

- carry assistance dogs accompanying disabled people;
- do so without additional charge; and
- allow the dog to remain with the passenger

Operators must:

- accept bookings made by or on behalf of a disabled person who is accompanied by an assistance dog;
- accept bookings made by a person who will be accompanied in a PHV by such a disabled person; and
- not make an additional charge for carrying the assistance dog

If a driver has a medical condition, such as severe asthma, which is aggravated by contact with dogs, or is allergic or has an acute phobia to dogs, it may be possible for them to qualify for an exemption. Please discuss this with the licensing team in the first instance, to whom application for exemption must be made. The driver will be required to produce conclusive medical evidence in support of his application.



Please note that the law does not allow for an exemption to be granted on religious grounds.

Additional information is available from: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/taxis/>