

APPENDIX C

LIMOUSINE AND SPECIALIST VEHICLES – ADDITIONAL STANDARD CONDITIONS OF LICENCE



These conditions made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 are specific to a vehicle adapted by lengthening the wheelbase of a standard, factory built vehicle and vehicles adapted or converted from their original purpose, to carry passengers for hire and reward, e.g. Fire Engines, Ambulances, etc.

The purpose of these conditions is to protect public safety. They apply in addition to the Authority's standard conditions for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, with the exception that the vehicle will be exempted from the current age restrictions, may be left hand drive, may have darkened glass to the rear passenger windows, may have some side facing seats, and may not have seat belts for all passengers.

They also take account of the fact that stretched limousines and specialist vehicles will:

- i) travel generally at slower speeds than normal taxis
- ii) not normally overtake other vehicles
- iii) be easily recognisable by the hirer
- iv) be heavier and considerably longer than standard cars
- v) usually be adapted or converted by someone other than the original manufacturer.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 These conditions apply to stretched limousines as defined in paragraphs 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 below, where the vehicle is constructed or adapted to seat up to 8 passengers.
- 1.2 A "stretched limousine", is a saloon type vehicle that has undergone an increase in length by extending the wheelbase after manufacture.
- 1.3 An "American stretched limousine" is a stretched limousine imported from the USA and typically will have been manufactured originally by Lincoln (Ford), Cadillac. However other specialist manufacturers may be included.
- 1.4 A specialist vehicle is a vehicle adapted by someone other than the original manufacturer to change the original use of the vehicle to allow it to carry passengers.
- 1.5 For the purposes of calculating the seating capacity of a vehicle the minimum width of a passenger seat is 400mm (16 inches). In the case of an 'L' shaped seat, sufficient space must be made available in the corner to prevent the passenger on one side of the corner encroaching on the passenger on the other side.

2. CONDITIONS

- 2.1 The originals of the following documentation will be required by the Council before an application can be properly considered:
- (a) Completed importation documentation where applicable and single vehicle approval (SVA) certificate. (Note a Minister's Approval Certificate is not acceptable).
 - (b) DVLA Registration Document (V5).
 - (c) Valid Certificate of Insurance, with cover for hire and reward.
 - (d) Current MOT certificate issued by an approved Testing Station.
 - (e) Valid Road Vehicle Excise Licence disc.
 - (f) Where applicable, an installation certificate from a Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (LPGA) Approved UK Vehicle Conversion Company, in the case of vehicles converted to run on LPG.
- 2.2 Prior to initial licensing, the vehicle shall be tested at the proprietor's expense, at a garage appointed by the Authority, to ascertain that the vehicle is in a safe and satisfactory condition for the carriage of passengers.
- 2.3 During the period of the licence, the vehicle shall be tested at the proprietor's expense, every 6 months, at a garage appointed by the Authority, to confirm its continued roadworthiness.
- 2.4 The Vehicle shall comply with the following:
- (a) Be equipped with a minimum of four road wheels and a full sized spare wheel.
 - (b) Be equipped with tyres designed and manufactured to support the maximum permitted axle weight for the axle when the vehicle is driven at the maximum speed, evidence of which shall be provided.
 - (c) Seat belts, where fitted, must be fitted in accordance with the current Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations.
 - (d) The maximum length of the stretch conversion (measured between the rear edge of the front door and the front edge of the rear door) shall not exceed 3048mm (120").
 - (e) Tinted glass shall conform to the legal requirements of the current Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations.
- 2.5 If alcohol is supplied to customers in the vehicle, a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 must be in place at the premises where the booking of the vehicle took place. No person, under the age of 18 years, being conveyed in a stretched limousine shall be allowed to consume alcohol. All alcohol will be served in polycarbonate or similar glasses.
- 2.6 Children under the age of 16 years shall not be carried in a stretched limousine unless accompanied by the parent or guardian of at least one of the children.

3. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS FOR SPECIALIST VEHICLES

The following additional conditions shall also apply to specialist vehicles:

1. The driver shall hold a full driving licence suitable for the type of vehicle.
2. Whenever passengers are entering or leaving the vehicle, physical assistance shall be provided by the operator/crew to ensure their safety.
3. The vehicle will have a speed limiter fitted to restrict its maximum speed to 56 m.p.h.
4. Where appropriate, additional footsteps shall be carried and used on the vehicle to facilitate access and egress from the passenger compartment of the vehicle.
5. Where appropriate, all passengers shall be required to enter/leave the vehicle via the passenger doorway adjacent to the pavement.
6. Passengers shall be advised at the time of booking and again on the day of hire that they must not embark or disembark from the vehicle without assistance from the operator/crew.
7. Where the seating arrangements have been changed from the original specification then those seats shall be securely anchored to the floor of the vehicle.
8. Seat belts, where fitted, must be fitted in accordance with the current Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations.
9. Suitable signage shall be prominently displayed in the passenger compartment advising all passengers to wear seatbelts.
10. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that all children under the age of 14 years are wearing seatbelts at all times when the vehicle is in motion.
11. All external "lockers" of the vehicle shall be secured to prevent access by passengers or members of the public.
12. The floor area of the vehicle shall be kept clear and unobstructed at all times.
13. All "blue" lights, siren, flashing lights, reflective tape, ladders and any lettering, which may give the public the impression that the vehicle is a fire engine, ambulance, etc, are to be permanently removed.
14. No person involved in the operation of the vehicle may wear a uniform or helmet that may lead a member of the public to believe that that person is a member of the Fire and Rescue or Ambulance Services.
15. The restrictions on access to certain groups of disabled persons shall be advertised to passengers at the time of booking and in any promotional literature and advertisements.
16. An audible alarm system shall be fitted to the rear passenger compartment doors and shall be in a working condition whenever the vehicle is carrying passengers.