

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Additional Special Conditions for Novelty Vehicles to be licensed as Private Hire Vehicles

A District Council may attach to the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence such Conditions as it may consider reasonably necessary.

(Section 48 (2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

All relevant information will be taken into account when consideration is given to an application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence.

Whilst an application for a Licence should conform to the Licensing Conditions and Council Policies and Guidelines each application will be considered on its own merits.

Where an applicant is aggrieved by the Council's decision to refuse to grant a private hire vehicle licence or by any conditions imposed on a private hire vehicle licence the applicant has a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of the Applicant being notified of the decision of the Licensing Committee.

Wyre Forest District Council may at its discretion, waive, alter, or add to any of the Conditions, Standards or Requirements.

A Private Hire vehicle is issued, upon grant, on 1st August each year and is valid for one year.

A Novelty Vehicle is defined as:

- any vehicle that has been specially constructed or adapted or converted by a low volume specialist vehicle manufacturer or modifier;
- any vehicle that has been structurally or mechanically modified from its original design or specification that is capable of carrying up to but not exceeding 8 passengers;
- any vehicle intended for the carriage of fare paying passengers that, prior to the introduction of this policy / conditions would not be licensed by the Authority as a private hire vehicle because it did not comply with one or more of the standard Conditions relating to Private Hire vehicles;
- any vehicle that in the opinion of the Council's Principal Licensing Officer, because of its specialist design / styling or origin should be classed as a Novelty Vehicle.

A Novelty Vehicle will not only be subject to the Council's Standard Conditions relating to Private Hire vehicles (except where they conflict with these Special Conditions) and the Provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Act 1976 but also the additional special conditions enumerated below.

LICENCE CONDITIONS

VOSA Documentation

Wyre Forest District Council will licence vehicles for Private Hire operation. Novelty vehicles must have a valid category of Single Vehicle Approval certificate (SVA) or an acceptable equivalent which must be produced to the Licensing Authority.

Manufacturer's Approval

Novelty vehicles that have been converted from a standard production model must have original documentation to confirm that the conversion was approved by the original manufacturer and that the conversion was undertaken by a converter / modifier under an approved scheme.

Imported Vehicles

Documentary evidence must be produced to prove that any imported Novelty vehicle has been legally imported into the UK and that the lights and indicators etc. have been modified to UK Specification.

Age Limits

Any Novelty vehicle that has been stretched / significantly modified or is a vehicle of unique / low volume manufacture will not be licensed or remain licensed beyond 10 years of age from original manufacturer unless the applicant is able to provide a recent report from a qualified independent testing organisation recognised and approved by the Licensing Authority, that has conducted intrusive tests on all aspects of the vehicles construction and structural integrity. Such tests to include tests on the seating and any seat belt arrangement confirming that they conform to the latest requirements and best practices. The report should also confirm that all aspects of the vehicle are suitable for hire and reward purposes. The report must make a recommendation for a time scale for when a further inspection and report would be required.

Additional Documents / Testing

Novelty vehicle proprietors may be required to supply additional documentation as required by the Council's Principal Licensing Officer, or for any vehicle to undergo any reasonable additional tests. Any additional costs involved will be the responsibility of the applicant

Left-hand Drive

Left-hand drive vehicles, converted or modified will be considered for Private Hire vehicle licensing unless the Authority is advised not to by a recognised organisation responsible for vehicle or public safety.

Vehicle Signage

The signage on Novelty vehicles must adhere to the current Private Hire signage and marking conditions and Private Hire Exempt vehicle Conditions where applicable. No other signs, notices or any other markings will be displayed on or in the vehicle without the written permission of the Authority.

Seating Configuration

Novelty vehicles with sideways facing seating will be considered for private hire vehicle licensing unless the Authority is advised not to by a recognised organisation responsible for the safety of the vehicle. The Novelty vehicle seating capacity must be reduced where necessary to a maximum of 8 passengers. Any attendants or drivers assistants will be counted as passengers. The total number of people allowed in a novelty vehicle at any time including the driver is 9.

Decommissioned Military or Emergency Response Vehicles

Decommissioned Military or Emergency response vehicles must have all official marking or blue lights removed. Any colour scheme must be of a contrast to the original colour scheme and to that of any previous or current military or emergency response vehicles.

Tinted Glass

The windscreen, driver's cockpit and front side windows to be of clear glass and the rear view windows of any vehicle shall not have been tinted / treated so that less than 75% of light is transmitted through them.

Tyres

Novelty vehicles must be fitted with tyres that meet both the size and weight specification for the vehicle, as well as allowing for the additional weight of up to 8 passengers (900kg)

Alcohol and Young Persons

Where the majority of the passengers are under the age of 18 years with no direct parental supervision no alcohol at all is permitted to be in the vehicle.

Drinking Utensils

If the Novelty vehicle operator provides or allows any drinking utensils to be carried or used in the vehicle they must be made of plastic or shatter proof glass.

Seat Belts

Seatbelts must be fitted to all forward and rear facing seats and must be worn at all times by passengers whilst the vehicle is in motion. There is no legal requirement for seatbelts on sideways facing seats.

AUTO RICKSHAWS (TUK TUK)

Age Limit

Vehicles presented for licensing shall be less than 2 years of age.

Kerb Vehicle Weight

The kerb weight shall not exceed 350kg

Length and Width Restrictions

The vehicle shall be no more than 1450mm wide and 2750mm long.

Construction

The vehicle shall have a chassis which is semi-monocoque. The vehicle shall be constructed with rear doors no higher than 550mm with restricted access to the offside. The vehicle must have adequate door and roof covers to give weather protection. The distance from the rear to the back seat should be no less than 360mm.

Seating Capacity

The maximum seating capacity - 3 passengers

Engine Capacity

The engine capacity shall be less than 250cc.

Manufacturer's Designed Maximum Speed

The Manufacturer's designed maximum speed shall not exceed 40 mph.

Passenger Access

Passenger access shall be from the nearside of the vehicle only.

Step Height

The step height for embarking and disembarking of passengers shall be no more than 370mm

Seat Belts

The outside two rear seats must have lap and diagonal seat belts. The centre seat must have a lap belt. The driver's seat must have a retractable seat belt. All fitted to UK / EU standard.

Rear Foot well

A 12 volt low level light shall be illuminated at night in the rear foot well of the vehicle.

Rubber Matting

Non slip rubber matting shall be fitted in the front and rear foot wells.