

## TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

1. Vehicles presented for inspection unprepared will be refused a test.
2. Vehicles presented late for inspection may be refused a test and will therefore be required to pay a further test fee before another appointment is made.
3. The following documents must be produced at the time of testing - Test Appointment, Vehicle Registration Document and/or evidence of ownership of the vehicle, and Wheelchair Conversion Certificate as supplied by the manufacturer or approved agent (Hackney Carriage wheelchair converted vehicles only). The vehicle examiner may refuse to test the vehicle if one or more of these documents is not produced.
4. Only vehicles type approved in accordance with Part 2 of the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness (eg. TX1, Fairway, FX4, Metrocab) to be tested for hackney carriage purposes. A copy of the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness is available from the Licensing Office on request.
5. Saloon cars presented for inspection for private hire purposes must have at least four doors and wheels, be right hand drive only, have adequate space within the vehicle for carrying luggage and be capable of carrying at least four and not more than eight passengers (excluding driver). Vehicles that can carry more than 4 passengers must comply with the Council's Minibus Specification which is available at the Licensing Office.
6. The licensing of saloon cars will be dependant upon the Council being satisfied that the vehicle is suitable in size, type and design for use as a private hire vehicle. A guide to the general requirements of the Council is illustrated at Figure 1.
7. Any vehicle which has been the subject of major damage rectification repairs will not be issued with a Certificate of Compliance and therefore no licence will be granted. It will be at the discretion of the vehicle examiner as to whether the vehicle has been the subject of such repairs.
8. Test and Retest fees to be paid prior to testing to KMBC Licensing Office.
9. All vehicles must be thoroughly steam cleaned, immediately prior to inspection.
10. All vehicles must be presented exceptionally clean, both interior and exterior.
11. All paintwork must be free of rust and corrosion and must be of a very high standard (See overleaf).
12. All vehicles to be fitted with a portable type fire extinguisher which conforms to British Standard 5423 of the following type:-
  - (i) ~~A BCF (green Halon type) extinguisher minimum capacity 1 kg or;~~
  - (ii) A dry Powder 34B rated extinguisher minimum capacity 1 kg or;
  - (iii) An AFFF Foam 21B rated extinguisher minimum capacity 0.9 litres.The extinguisher should be mounted on brackets in a convenient position in the drivers compartment, if practicable. Otherwise, the extinguisher should be mounted on brackets in the boot. The Vehicle Licence Number must be marked on the extinguisher (renewals only).
13. A suitable first aid kit containing the following items must be provided in the vehicle - six individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings, one medium sized unmedicated dressing approximately 100mm by 80mm, one triangular bandage sterile; six safety pins and a pair of protective/surgical gloves. This kit to be carried in such a position as to be readily visible, if practicable. Otherwise, a sign shall be displayed on the vehicle dashboard indicating the position of the kit. The Vehicle Licence Number must be marked on the first aid kit (renewals only).
14. All panes of glass to have the Registration Number or the Chassis Number etched onto them.
15. Wheel trims of the same design must be fixed to the wheels of the vehicle and the spare wheel must be legal and rim clean.
16. Hackney Carriage Vehicles must be fitted with an illuminated white box approximately 4" x 3" in size containing the word "CAB" plus the vehicle licence number in black letters. The box to be affixed to the rearside partition window and wired to the ignition so it is illuminated at all times when the vehicle is in motion.
17. Welding must not substitute panel and wing fastenings.
18. Vehicles must be presented as originally constructed as per the Manufacturers Specification.
19. Only authorised optional extras will be allowed on vehicles as per their Manufacturers Specification.

20. All interior floor coverings and trim must be as per specification. Painted floors in the passenger compartment of hackney carriage vehicles are acceptable, provided paint is non slip. Carpets in the passenger compartment must be as per specification and properly secured with aluminium threads. Mats or carpets of any description are not acceptable in the drivers compartment.
21. Minor repairs to seats and upholstery will be accepted but must be of a high standard. Excessively torn upholstery will not be accepted and must be replaced.
22. All door retaining catches, seat belts and wheelchair restraining belts in respect of wheelchair accessible vehicles must be in good working order. Wheelchair ramps must be etched with the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Number.
23. Hackney Carriage Vehicles must be fitted with a Council-approved Taximeter before testing. New or replacement vehicles may be tested without a Taximeter but a licence will not be granted until the vehicle is fitted with an approved Taximeter and then tested.
24. Vehicles will only be tested with the Licence Plate correctly affixed with the exception of new or replacement vehicles which can be tested without.
25. No signs, advertisements or telephone numbers to be displayed in or from any vehicle other than those approved by the Council. Door signs as prescribed for private hire vehicles and hackney carriage vehicles which are affixed by means of adhesive do not require removal prior to testing. A sign displaying telephone numbers and/or name of radio company is allowed to be displayed in the rear window of a hackney carriage vehicle (24" x 3") and in the rear window of a private hire vehicle (18" x 2") in such a manner so as not to obscure the drivers view. Hackney Carriage Vehicles can display an advertisement in the rear window affixed by means of a clear plastic film known as Contra Vision.
26. In the event of any vehicle being considered unroadworthy a stop notice will be issued and the plates removed by the vehicle examiner.
27. All vehicles requiring a retest must be presented for retest within **7 days** of the original test date. Vehicles with excessive mileage will require a further full test.
28. Twenty four hours notice of cancellation of a test appointment is required. Otherwise the test fee remains payable.
29. **Once the vehicle passes the test the following MUST be produced to the Licensing Office as soon as possible, and in any case within 3 working days - Certificate of Compliance, Test Appointment Form, Vehicle Registration Document, appropriate insurance certificate/cover note (in the name of the licence holder), proof of ownership of the vehicle (new/replacement vehicles) and the relevant fee. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT WILL MEAN THAT A FURTHER TEST WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE VEHICLE WILL BE LICENSED.**

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## **TESTING OF VEHICLES - PAINTWORK/BODYWORK**

(a) **Use of Filler**

Filler is only acceptable on minor repairs to body panels but not in seams. Any protrusions or irregularities in the panel surface will not be accepted. Repairs to seams or gaps requires the use of metal.

(b) **Tape**

Tape used on door/wind edges will not be accepted and will be removed by the vehicle inspectors during the test. Any person wishing to protect their doors should use proper rubber door edgings.

(c) **Paintwork**

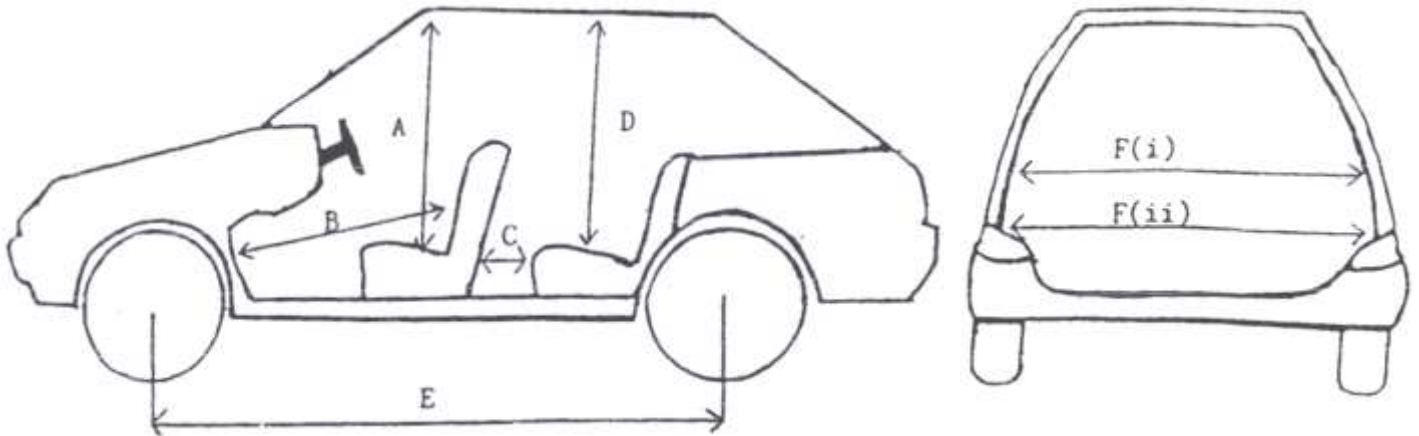
Paintwork should be of a high standard and uniform throughout the vehicle. No dissimilar coloured panels or dissimilar finish on panels will be accepted. Resprays to vehicles must be of a high standard and satisfy the vehicle inspector that it will endure the term of the licence.

(d) **Underseal**

Excessive use of underseal will not be accepted and the vehicle inspectors may request that underseal be removed prior to testing.

**FIGURE 1**

1. The minimum engine capacity must be approximately 1400cc.
2. The vehicle must have the following minimum dimensions:-



A Front Passenger Headroom

35" [889 mm] min - Cushion not compressed.

B Front Passenger Legroom

37" [940 mm] min - Seat full rearward.

C Rear Passenger Legroom

7" [178 mm] min - Front seat fully rearward.

D Rear Passenger Headroom

34" [864 mm] min - Cushion not compressed.

E Wheelbase

98" [2490 mm] min.

F Rear Seating Space

- (i) 50" [1270 mm] min - Rear seat backrest measured horizontally from a point in line with the bottom edge of the rear door windows;
- (ii) 48" [1219 mm] min - rear seat width measured in a straight line across the middle of rear seat squab.

G Luggage Space

There must be adequate space for storing luggage outside the passenger compartment to accommodate a minimum of one suitcase or holdall per passenger.