



CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CONDITIONS OF LICENCE FOR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

Name and address of Licensee

PHV No.

GENERAL

1. The vehicle shall not be a licensed Private Hire Vehicle of any other Council

INSURANCE

2. A licensed Private Hire Vehicle must be insured for the purpose of use as a Private Hire Vehicle and new Insurance documentation must be produced on or before the date of expiry of cover notes or certificates.

SIGNS AND NOTICES

3. No signs, notices, advertisements, plates, marks, numbers, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices whatsoever shall be displayed on, in or from the vehicle unless requested or approved by the Council or its Authorised Officers in writing: - This condition shall not apply to:
 - a) any indication on a taximeter fitted to the vehicle.
 - b) any signs, plates, marks, numbers, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices whatsoever affixed to the inside or outside of the vehicle by the manufacturer of that vehicle at the time of the manufacture thereof.
 - c) not more than two notices containing only the individual name(s) or trading name(s) and / or telephone numbers(s) of the proprietor(s) or other operator(s) of that vehicle subject to : -
 - i) the form, colour design, appearance, content and location of each such notice firstly having been approved in writing by the Council or its Authorised Officers.
 - ii) the proprietor(s) and operator(s) of that vehicle ensuring that such notices shall not at any time interfere with the driver's visibility from the vehicle or with the display of any other notice statutorily or by the Council required to be affixed to or otherwise displayed from that vehicle.

LICENCE PLATE, REGISTRATION AND STICKERS

4. The proprietor shall cause to be clearly marked and maintained inside the vehicle and in such a position as to be clearly visible at all times to persons conveyed there in: -
 - a) The name and address of the Licensing Authority to which complaints may be directed.
 - b) The number of the vehicle licence.
 - c) The number of passengers prescribed in the vehicle licence.
 - d) A current table of fares and charges, which has been approved by the Council.

5.
 - a) The plate identifying the vehicle as a Private Hire vehicle shall be externally fixed in a conspicuous position on the rear of the vehicle and in such manner as to be easily removed by all Authorised Officers of the Council or a Constable.
 - b) The licence holder shall cause to be permanently secured to each of the front doors of the vehicle a sticker issued by the council. The door stickers to be secured directly to the vehicle by means of the self-adhesive backing material.
 - c) A licensed Private Hire Vehicle shall not be operated without the identifying plate, stickers being clearly displayed, as secured by or to the satisfaction of the Council's testing station. All identification stickers and vehicle plate must be immediately removed from the vehicle and returned to the Council within 7 days of the expiry, suspension or revocation of the vehicle licence.

NOTIFICATIONS

6. A proprietor shall within twenty – eight days, supply the Council with written details of: -
 - a) any changes of address and / or telephone number and of any other proprietor or person concerned in the keeping, employing or letting for hire of the licensed vehicle.
 - b) any conviction or caution not previously notified to the Council, as being recorded against (i) him / her (ii) any Company of which he/she is a Director or Secretary, (iii) any driver of the vehicle.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE

7. As from the 1st April 2009

Vehicles presented for test for the first time of licensing must be under 5 years of age.

Wheelchair accessible vehicles when presented for test for the first time of licensing must be not more than 8 years of age.

Vehicles must be of a suitable type that satisfies the vehicle specification of the Council for the time being in force and it must be maintained in good condition, which should meet with the approval of the Authorised Officer, Police Constable, and vehicle examiner.

8. Private Hire Vehicles must not be of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage.
9. The vehicle must be fitted with a right hand drive and shall not have less than four doors.
10. Where a taximeter is fitted to a Private Hire Vehicle, it must be of approved design, properly sealed, tested, and certification provided
11. All vehicles must be constructed and maintained so as to be safe and comfortable and the doors must open sufficiently wide so as to allow easy access to and egress from the vehicle and cause no inconvenience to passengers. Side facing seats are not permitted.
12. All seating must be fitted with approved seat belts.
13. All vehicles must meet the following minimum dimensions internally:
 - a) Height – from the top of the seat cushions (without compression) to the roof at the lowest part must be not less than 32 inches.
 - b) Knee Space – the measurements between the rear of the front seats and squab of the back seat must not be less than 30 inches. Where the seats are capable of adjustment, the measurement is to be made in mid position.
 - c) Seats (Width) – the width of the back seat from the squab to the front edge must not be less than 18 inches.
 - d) Rear Seat (Length) – the length of the rear seat measured in a straight line lengthwise or the front of the seat must be such as will allow adequate sitting accommodation to the extent of at least 16 inches per person.
 - e) Engine Capacity – the engine capacity of the vehicle shall not be less than 1200 cc.

14. All vehicles must include: -
- a) Interior lighting operated either automatically when any of the rear doors are opened or by a separate switch located near to the driver.
 - b) A boot interior light.
 - c) No smoking signs inside the vehicle
15. There shall be provided and maintained in the vehicle at all times when it is in use or available for hire, a suitable first aid kit containing appropriate first aid dressings and appliances, and such equipment must be carried in such a position in the vehicle as to be readily visible and available for immediate use in an emergency. Drivers are advised that they are not required to administer first aid.
16. Every vehicle shall carry in a conveniently accessible position agreed by the authorised officer, a suitable fire extinguisher, manufactured and tested according to the relevant British Standard and show the B.S number.
17. No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the prior approval of the Council at any time while the licence is in force.
18. No Citizen Band Radio Equipment shall be fitted to or used in a licensed vehicle.

ADAPTED VEHICLES

19. If the passenger seating capacity of any adapted vehicle has been reduced to not more than eight seats, the fixing points of the removed seats must be permanently blocked off or otherwise disabled to the satisfaction of the Councils Licensing Officer.
20. No other seats or seating provision whether permanent or temporary shall be installed or provided in the vehicle (other than child seats or wheelchairs in adapted vehicles) whilst it is licensed as a Private Hire vehicle.
21. Any vehicles that have been converted must provide the relevant conversion certificates and documentation

VEHICLE TESTING

22. Vehicles will require annual testing by the Council's vehicle examiners.

TRANSFER OF VEHICLE LICENCE

23. The proprietor of a Licensed Private Hire Vehicle must inform the Council within 14 days of the Transfer. This must be notified in writing and he/she must specify the name and address of the person to whom his/her interest has been transferred.
24. The proprietor or driver of a Private Hire Vehicle who has agreed or who has been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at such appointed time and place.
25. A proprietor or driver of a Private Hire Vehicle shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such carriage any greater number of persons than the number of persons specified in the Private Hire Vehicle licence.
26. The vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire be kept in an efficient, safe and clean condition.

BREACH OF LICENCE CONDITIONS

27. If during one or more spot check of the vehicle a total of 3 non mechanical breaches of condition are identified within an 18 month period, the Authority shall in accordance with Section 60 (1) (c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 treat the matter as reasonable cause for suspension of the vehicle licence. The suspension will remain in force for a minimum period of 14 days. Vehicles which fail to comply with the conditions after 14 days will not have the suspension lifted until such a time as compliance is achieved.

Licence holders are reminded that the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 makes the following provisions that apply to private hire vehicles: -

- i) All vehicles must be presented for inspection at such reasonable time as the council may deem necessary, and must comply with all current statutory requirements for road vehicles and with the conditions imposed by the council. This condition is without prejudice to the powers granted under section 68 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- ii) The relevant registration document, valid certificate of insurance required by part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and current MOT certificate must be presented at the time of official inspection of each vehicle.
- iii) A licence holder on being notified in writing of a defect which in the opinion of the Council's authorised officer renders a vehicle as unsuitable for public service, must remove that vehicle from service entirely or until the defect has been remedied to the satisfaction of the authorised officer.

- iv) A licence holder shall notify the Council's authorised officer of any damage to their vehicle within 72 hours of the occurrence thereof.
- v) The proprietor of a Private Hire Vehicle shall permit the inspection of all documents including vehicle insurance, relating to licensed vehicles, at all reasonable times by the Authorised Officer of the Council.
- vi) If the proprietor permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle, he shall before that person commences to drive the vehicle cause the driver to deliver to him/her their Private Hire or Dual Drivers licence for retention until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of the proprietor.
- vii) Any person who commits an offence against any of the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in respect of which no penalty is expressly provided shall be liable to summary conviction of a fine not exceeding level 3.