



# New Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence



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If you have not worked in the Taxi industry before it is advised that you do not licence a vehicle, or purchase a vehicle to be licensed, until you have been granted a licence to drive a hackney carriage and you are certain it meets the Council's [vehicle requirements](#).

## Application form

You must apply using the application form below.

- [Vehicle application form \(word\)](#)
- [Vehicle application form \(PDF\)](#)

To be granted a licence you will need the following documents:

1. [Vehicle Logbook V5C](#)
2. [MOT certificate issued in the last 14 days from an approved garage;](#)
3. [Certificate of compliance issued in the last 14 days from an approved garage;](#)
4. [Insurance for public hire and reward](#)
5. [A certificate of calibration](#)

You may also need:

1. [A Basic DBS disclosure if you are not a licensed driver;](#)
2. [A letter from the owner of the vehicle if it is not yours.](#)

If a licence is granted you must ensure compliance with:

[Vehicle licence conditions](#) and [Hackney Carriage Bye-laws](#).

## [Vehicle requirements](#)

It is your responsibility to check that the vehicle meets our requirements and should read [appendix C](#) of the Council Policy for full vehicle specifications.

New Hackney carriage vehicles must be:

1. Purpose built as a hackney carriage;
2. Less than 6 years of age;
3. Be wheelchair accessible;
4. Have at least 4 passenger seats and 4 Doors;
5. Have tyres with 3mm of tread depth at the time of test;

6. Seat no more than 8 passengers;
7. Meet the Euro 6 Emissions criteria;
8. Be fitted with a meter calibrated to the Hertsmere tariff.
9. Have a roof sign stating "for hire" or "Taxi";

We will not licence a vehicle that has been written off by an insurance company will not be licensed, regardless of the reasons.

## Calibration certificate

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Hackney carriages must have a taximeter fitted which is calibrated to the current tariff set by the Council. A calibration certificate should be provided on application and meters will be checked by the garage. The meter must be positioned so that passengers can clearly see the charge being made. A calibration certificate can be obtained by taking the vehicle to a specialist installer to confirm that the meter charges customers correctly.

## Roof Sign

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The vehicle must be fitted with a roof sign that states 'TAXI' or 'FOR HIRE'. The sign must be illuminated when the vehicle is available for hire and the light extinguished when the meter is engaged.

## Insurance

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**Hackney Carriage** vehicles must be insured for PUBLIC HIRE and REWARD" or "Taxi".

The insurance certificate should only state the name of the driver (or any other person) who holds a private hire driver licence granted by Hertsmere. It is permissible for the insurance certificate to also include private hire. A spouse or other family member cannot be named on the insurance as once the vehicle is licensed, only a Hertsmere licensed driver can lawfully drive the vehicle.

## Vehicle Testing (MOT and Compliance Certificate)

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Your vehicle must be assessed by one of the Council's two approved garages. The assessment requires that the vehicle must pass an MOT and an additional assessment of the vehicle's compliance with the licensing requirements. A list of the approved garages and what is checked on the compliance test can be found in the document below:

 [Approved garages and compliance test guidelines.](#)

**Both tests must have been passed within 14 days of your application. This allows you a 2 week period in which to book your assessment before making an application.**

If your vehicle fails either of the tests it will need to be re-tested. It is your responsibility to ensure that your vehicle is suitable and you may wish to have your vehicle undergo an earlier MOT to identify any issues.

## V5C Logbook

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Whilst the V5C does not prove legal ownership it does indicate who is legally entitled to possess the vehicle and as such a licence will normally be granted to the registered keeper of a vehicle. If the vehicle has just been purchased the new keeper supplement (green slip) will be acceptable for an interim period if made out in the name of the applicant and the applicant has possession of the vehicle.

If the logbook is not in the name of the proposed licence holder the Council may still grant the vehicle licence to them if a letter from the owner/keeper is provided. The letter should be signed and dated by the registered keeper and set out who owns the vehicle, why it is registered in their name and not the applicants, where the vehicle will be kept during the period the vehicle is licensed and that they consent to the vehicle being used as licensed vehicle.

## [Basic DBS disclosure](#)

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If you are not a licensed driver you will need to submit a Basic criminal record check to us in support of your application. You can obtain this here: [Request a basic DBS check - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## [Interior equipment](#)

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Vehicles must carry the following:

- Spare tyre (or if so manufactured to have a space saver spare or tyre repair/compression kits);
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid Kit;
- Replacement bulb kit
- Warning triangle.

## [Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles \(WAV's\)](#)

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All **Hackney Carriage** vehicles must be wheelchair accessible. Drivers of WAV's must undertake the appropriate training to ensure they are trained in the loading, securing of and unloading of the wheelchair. This can be booked through accredited course providers. A pass certificate must be provided to the council before a licence is issued in respect of a WAV. All licensed WAV's will appear on this [register](#).

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