



VEHICLE STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE HIRE

AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

GENERAL

Pendle Borough Council requires Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles which are licensed for the use of fare paying passengers to maintain a high standard of presentation.

UNIFORM COLOUR

The paintwork should be uniform in colour over the whole of the vehicle. Where repairs have been carried out best practice body shop techniques should be followed to ensure that the best colour match possible is obtained using recognised automotive re-finishing products.

GLOSS FINISH

Paintwork should have a gloss finish over the whole of the vehicle. Where the paintwork has begun to fade due to age and the effects of ultra violet degradation over large areas of the vehicle and where it cannot be returned to an acceptable level of gloss by the use of cutting compounds re-finishing may be required.

POOR WORKMANSHIP

Repairs should be carried out to a very high standard. Defects which result from poor preparation or poor application of the paint finish are likely to result in the vehicle NOT reaching the required standard. Such defects including runs, orange peel, fish eyes, dust in the paint, orbital sander marks, poor paint coverage, overspray etc should not be evident when the vehicle is viewed in normal light conditions.

SMALL DENTS

Small dents will not cause the vehicle to fail the test unless the paint film has been broken and rusting is evident. Large dents on the vehicle will result in a fail. No more than 5 minor dents and scratches should be visible on the vehicle.

RUST

A single rust spot or no more than 3 rust spots will not cause the vehicle to fail the test, any vehicle which has more than 3 rust spots on the testing vehicle will result in the vehicle failing its test, any sign of poor workmanship after the repairs have been carried out will result in a fail.

FLAKING

Small areas of flaking paint or lacquer will not cause the vehicle to fail the test. Large areas of flaking on any panel of the vehicle will result in a fail.

PANELS

A panel is the roof, front wing, rear wing, front door (including A pillar), rear door (including B pillar), boot or tailgate, sill, front panel (including bumper), rear panel (including bumper).

REPLACEMENT PANELS

Vehicles which have been damaged and had replacement panels fitted are acceptable as Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles provided that the repairs have been carried out to a high standard.

ALIGNMENT

Replacement panels should be correctly aligned. They should be level with all adjacent panels and the gaps between panels should be uniform and similar to those between original panels.

TRIMS

All trims should be present, correctly aligned.

WING MIRRORS, WHEEL TRIMS ETC.

All side mirrors including wing mirror covers need to be fixed on the testing vehicle, cracked or broken mirrors, missing wheel trims, missing windscreen wipers will result in the testing vehicle failing.

SCUFFING

Minor scuffing etc of the protective trim will not result in the vehicle failing its test. Large areas of scuffing on the bumper or any trims will result in the vehicle failing its test.

MAJOR ACCIDENT DAMAGE

Vehicles which have been involved in serious accidents may be used as Hackney Carriage Vehicles or Private Hire Vehicles provided they have been professionally repaired. Poor workmanship will result in the vehicle failing the test.

INTERIOR

A vehicle which is in a dirty condition with an accumulation of dust, litter, stains on carpets and seats will result in a fail. All seats, seat coverings, upholstery must be clean and in good condition and state of repair. Any seats and coverings which are torn will result in a fail. Minor holes are acceptable. Inadequately secured rear seat bases and headrests will result in a fail. Any loose wiring in the vehicle which could cause accidents or injury to a passenger need to be securely fixed.

ASSESSMENT

Where a vehicle tester detects evidence that the vehicle has been involved in an accident which may have caused damage to the structural integrity of the vehicle or may have caused safety critical components to become misaligned, the proprietor must prove to the satisfaction of the Taxi Licensing Section that repairs have been carried out to an acceptable standard.