

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE AGE POLICY

With effect from 1 September 2008 no vehicle will be licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle if it is four years of age or older at date of application. Once licensed a vehicle can continue to be licensed beyond that age providing it complies with the conditions set out below. Some vehicles licensed prior to 1 September 2008 can continue to have their licences renewed under the existing policy but this only applies to purpose built hackney carriages and stretched limousines. All others must follow the conditions below.

CONDITIONS

A high standard is expected of any vehicle which is to be renewed beyond four years of age and the following conditions have been designed to assist an applicant decide whether their vehicle can comply with those standards:

The vehicle must have:

1. A full service history from the applicant's date of purchase of the vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's service schedule and/or supporting documentation evidencing a regular, preventative maintenance schedule. This can be in the form of a stamped service history book or invoices but the vehicle registration number must be stated on any invoice. Producing invoices to show repair work will not be sufficient, they must show regular servicing.
2. No rust, significant dents or scratches. This is obviously open to individual interpretation and each case will be considered on its own merits.
3. An excellent interior which is safe, clean and free of holes, tears and wear and tear.
4. Undergone an independent engineer's, AA or RAC inspection at the applicant's own cost who must submit the report to the Council. Reports are acceptable from an engineer who has any of the following qualifications:

Fellow or Member of the Institute of the Motor Industry (FIMI) (MIMI)
Incorporated Engineer (I.Eng)
Associate of the Institute of the Automotive Engineer Assessors
(AIAEA)

It is recommended that before proceeding with an application you contact either the Licensing Team or the Council's appointed testing station for clarification on any of the above points.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. To ensure the service history/maintenance schedule is sufficient, all documentation relating to servicing must be produced to the Council's appointed Testing Station (CATS) for verification. Documents produced will be embossed by the CATS to avoid duplication. (If subsequent renewal applications are made for the same vehicle only the maintenance documents since the last date of application need be produced). The adequacy of the documentation will be scrutinised and a decision given as to its sufficiency. Any dispute will be resolved by Allerdale Borough Council whose decision shall be final.
2. Once verification of service history is given arrangements must be made by the applicant for the independent engineer's inspection.
3. Present the vehicle and engineers report to the CATS. Please note that any items identified in the engineers report must be rectified as must any identified by CATS.
4. Application for renewal must then be made using the appropriate application form and submitted to the Licensing Department together with service history verification form, independent engineer's report, Pass sheet from CATS, vehicle registration document, current MOT certificate, current insurance document and application fee.

Please note that all parts of the application process and subsequent repairs identified must be completed before the licence expiry date as temporary plates will not be issued. The onus is therefore on each applicant to ensure inspections are arranged in plenty of time to allow for any repairs or unforeseen events which might delay the renewal application being submitted.

It will no longer be necessary to make your vehicle available for a visual inspection by Officers of the Council except in the event of a dispute.

In line with VOSA time limits any minor matters required to comply with the Council's requirements will be allowed a repair period of 10 working days (excluding weekends and bank holidays) and the vehicle will have to be represented to CATS for approval. If the 10 days is after expiry of licence date temporary plates will be issued for a fee following which the licence will expire.

Vehicles over the age of five years will still require testing twice per year by the Council's appointed testing station.