

Driver's Forum

| Proposed Amendment | Summary of Discussion | Amendment to Draft Policy |
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| <p>Paragraph 2.17</p> <p>Vehicles aged between 8 years and 10 years (or 15 years if wheelchair accessible vehicle) will not automatically be renewed. The vehicle must be maintained in an exceptional condition and be inspected by an Authorised Officer who will determine if the vehicle licence will be renewed.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.18</p> <p>In addition, any vehicle aged between 8 years and 10 years (or 15 years if wheelchair accessible vehicle) may have their renewal application refused or their vehicle licence revoked if the vehicle fails its Depot test on any issues which could undermine the public safety objective.</p> | <p>Concerns as the checks are to be carried out by Officers rather than the Depot; what is the discretion and what are Officers qualifications to be able to check a vehicle.</p> <p>Definition of exceptional condition would assist in deciding whether to carry out the work or not.</p> <p>Drivers will not spend lots of money on improving a vehicle if it will not be worth it on the resale value.</p> <p>The Officer check was to assist the vehicle proprietor however the majority would prefer a check by the Depot than Officers to decide if the vehicle meets the exceptional condition. If there is a clear definition then it is up to the vehicle proprietor to decide if they comply or not and run the risk of a failed depot test.</p> | <p>Agreed that the check will still be carried out by the Depot rather than an Officer. Reminder letters will be sent out two months before renewal (currently one month) with the exceptional condition definition detailed in the letter to provide time for any required works to be completed.</p> <p>If a vehicle fails the re-test after failing an initial inspection on grant, renewal or the 6 monthly checks then the vehicle licence will be refused or revoked.</p> <p>The standards required of a private hire vehicle are already detailed at paragraph 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 of the Policy.</p> <p>Proposed paragraph 2.17 deleted.</p> <p>Proposed paragraph 2.18 amended to read:</p> <p>Any vehicle aged between 8 years and 10 years (or 15 years if wheelchair accessible vehicle) may have their renewal application refused or their vehicle licence revoked if the vehicle fails its Depot re-test on any issues which could undermine the public</p> |

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| | | <p>safety objective. If the vehicle proprietor is aggrieved by the decision of the Depot then any concerns can be raised with a Licensing Officer to determine whether the requirements of the Council have been met or not.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 2.30</p> <p>For safety reasons, it must be possible to observe the driver of a licensed vehicle and the passenger(s) being carried. Many licensed vehicles are used for the carriage of children and vulnerable adults and for this reason vehicles which have tinted windows which prevent clear vision into the vehicle will not be licensed. The minimum light transmission permitted for the wind screen and all of the windows in the licensed vehicle is 70%. It is advisable to contact the Licensing Department for further clarification.</p> | <p>Some school contracts demand privacy windows as part of the contract.</p> <p>Factory tinted windows comes as standard on higher specification models so drivers will not purchase this type of vehicle.</p> <p>Some minibuses don't even have windows.</p> <p>If buy second hand then there is no way of knowing if the tints are factory fitted or retro fitted.</p> | <p>Officers have had confirmation from Staffordshire and Leicestershire County Council that they have never issued a school contract with a requirement for tinted windows. Derbyshire County Council has confirmed that one contract has been issued to a company in Chesterfield whereby tinted windows are required due to the pupil having light sensitivity and eye/skin problems.</p> <p>The County Councils have provided their full support for the proposed amendment.</p> <p>The Policy has been amended at paragraph 2.30 to include an exemption for executive cars and to amend a discrepancy. The exemption will apply in the same way as the exemption for executive vehicles from displaying the plates and signs on a licensed vehicle.</p> <p>To avoid any cost to vehicle proprietors in relation to any currently licensed vehicles, it</p> |

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| | | <p>is proposed that this amendment will only apply to new vehicle licences granted after 1st July 2019.</p> <p>Proposed section on tinted windows amended to read:</p> <p>2.30 For safety reasons, it must be possible to be able to observe the driver and the passenger(s) being carried in a licensed vehicle. Many licensed vehicles are used for the carriage of children and vulnerable adults and for this reason vehicles which have tinted windows which prevent clear vision into the vehicle will not be licensed. The minimum light transmission permitted for the wind screen is 75% and all other windows in the licensed vehicle shall be 70%.</p> <p>2.31 The only exception to this requirement is for executive type vehicles being used exclusively for executive hire, corporate contracts or work of a similar nature. A request for exemption should be submitted in writing with supporting evidence.</p> <p>2.32 When purchasing new or used vehicles for use as a private hire vehicle, vehicle proprietors are advised to contact the Licensing Department to ensure the vehicle is compliant with the required light</p> |
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| | | <p>transmission values.</p> <p>2.33 The above requirement for tinted windows will only apply to private hire vehicle licences issued after 1st July 2019. Existing private hire vehicle licences may continue to have tinted windows that do not meet the required light transmission values as long as the tints are manufacture fitted. Any licensed vehicle with retro fitted tinted windows will have to remove the additional tints.</p> |
| <p>Paragraph 2.48</p> <p>Licensed vehicles are required to display licence plates externally on the rear of the vehicle and a dual sided plate in the front windscreen and rear passenger windows. Exemptions may be given for certain types of private hire vehicle not to display the rear plate, however, a letter of exemption from the Council and the licence plate must be carried in the vehicle at all times.</p> | <p>Could block the view</p> <p>Suggestion about QR codes on window stickers for people to link direct to the Council's website</p> | <p>No amendments to Policy</p> |