



Licensing Of Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Vehicles

As you are probably aware we have recently tightened up on the procedures for licensing new/change of vehicles due to a significant number of owners, who could not produce a V5 Registration document/V5C Registration Certificate (log book) at the time of application, abusing the system.

Following discussion with Stockton Hackney Drivers Association (SHDA) and the Stockton Taxi Organisation (STO) the new arrangements will be as follows:

- Applications should be submitted with all documentation, including V5/V5C Registration Document, Insurance Certificate and MoT Certificate.
- The only acceptable reason for the non production of an MoT Certificate is if the test is to be undertaken as part of the vehicle examination at Cowpen Depot. The MoT certificate must be produced before the vehicle can be licensed.
- If a current insurance certificate is not provided at the time of application it must be produced before the vehicle can be licensed.
- If a current V5/V5C Registration Document detailing the correct keeper/colour details etc is not provided at the time of application it must be provided before the vehicle can be licensed. If the V5/V5C Registration Document states that the vehicle has been involved in an accident then an independent engineers report will be required and the vehicle may be required to be retested at Cowpen Depot. If the Chassis/Engine Numbers do not correspond with those on the vehicle, the vehicle must be examined by Cleveland Police before a licence can be issued.

The licence and plates will not be produced until all of the documentation has been submitted to the office, and will be ready within three working days of submission of the last document. Obviously the most efficient way to obtain a vehicle licence is to submit all of the required documentation at the time of application.

Since January 2004 the DVLA has been issuing new style registration certificates (V5C). From 1st July 2005 all existing V5 Registration Documents will no longer be valid and all vehicles should have the new style V5C Registration Certificates. If you have not received your new certificate by 1st July 2005 you should contact the DVLA.

Points System Of Enforcement

Following discussion with the Stockton Taxi Organisation we are amending the scheme to include the awarding of 3 points if a vehicle should fail its vehicle test at Cowpen Depot. For those who have not received any points, the table overleaf gives an indication of some of the events that will lead to the award of points.

Examples Of Breaches/Contraventions Which May Attract Penalty Points (These Breaches/Contraventions Are The Most Common And Do Not Form An Exhaustive List)	
1.	Failure To Have The Vehicle And All Its Fittings In An Exceptionally Well Maintained Condition
2.	Failure To Display Vehicle Plates In Correct Manner
3.	Failure To Display Vehicle Door Signs In Correct Manner
4.	Failure To Display Vehicle Roof Sign
5.	Failure To Display Dash Display Badge
6.	Failure To Display Tariff Card
7.	Failure To Display Internal Comment Card
8.	Vehicle Displaying Non Approved Adverts
9.	Failure To Provide First Aid Kit
10.	Failure To Provide Fire Extinguisher
11.	Failure To Maintain Adequate Internal Lighting
12.	Failure To Produce Insurance Certificate When Requested
13.	Failure To Produce An MOT Certificate When Requested
14.	Failure To Present Vehicle For Test When Requested
15.	Alteration Or Changes In Specification, Design, Condition Or Appearance Of The Vehicle Without Approval
16.	Failure To Notify The Council, In Writing, Of Any Change Of Address With Seven Days
17.	Failure To Notify The Council, In Writing, Of Any Conviction/Caution Within Seven Days
18.	Failure To Notify The Council, In Writing, Within 72 Hours Of Any Accident Involving A Licensed Vehicle
19.	Failure To Use A Meter/Overcharging Of Customer
20.	Failure To Wear/Display The Drivers Badge In A Manner To Be Plainly And Distinctly Visible
21.	Failure To Behave In A Civil And Orderly Manner
22.	Sounding Of Horn In Contravention Of Highway Code/Road Traffic Acts
23.	Conveying A Greater Number Of Persons Than That Prescribed In The Licence For The Vehicle
24.	Failure To Carefully Search For Any Property Which May Have Been Accidentally Left In The Vehicle
25.	Failure To Give A Written Receipt For The Fare Paid When Requested
26.	Failure To Carry A Disabled Persons Guide, Hearing Or Assistance Dog
27.	Failure To Promptly Attend At Appointed Time And Place Of Booking
28.	Failure To Report Loss/Theft Of Driver Badges Within 2 Working Days
29.	Failure To Keep Adequate Booking Records
30.	Failure To Keep Clean, Adequately Heated, Ventilated And Lit Premises For The Public For The Purposed Of Booking Or Waiting For A Private Hire Vehicle
31.	Failure To Submit Radio Equipment Test Certificate Annually Within One Month Of Test
32.	Failure To Notify The Council In Writing Immediately Of Receipt Of A Complaint About The Hire Of A Vehicle
33.	Use By An Operator Of An Unlicensed Vehicle Or Driver
34.	Failure To Return To The Council Vehicle Plates And Decals Within 7 Days Of Request
35.	Failure Of A Proprietor Of A Vehicle To Notify The Council Within 14 Days Of The Transfer Of Any Interest In The Vehicle.

Since the points system was introduced the vast majority of points issued have been for one of the following reasons:

- Failure to display roof sign
- Failure to display/wear driver badges
- Following suspension of vehicles for failing to attend test/produce documents etc all of which are easily avoidable.