

NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE
GUIDANCE NOTES AND CONDITIONS OF LICENSING

- The vehicle must be fully wheelchair accessible.
- All vehicles must meet **European Whole Vehicle Type Approval** or **UK Low Volume Approval**. (Evidence of this must be produced).

Any vehicle meeting UK Single Vehicle Approval will not be licensed as a Hackney Carriage vehicle.

- Only Vehicles in which the wheelchair is loaded/unloaded through the side of the vehicle will be licensed.
- The vehicle must have a minimum seating capacity for 4 passengers with at least one passenger seated in a wheelchair and a maximum of 8 passengers with at least one passenger seated in a wheelchair.
- A bulkhead/drivers safety screen should be fitted, and it should be a full width, full height screen fitted directly behind the driver's seat. The upper section of the bulkhead/safety screen should contain a clear vision panel sufficient for the driver to be able to see a substantial amount of the passenger compartment, which must include vision of all access doors.
- The bulkhead/safety screen should allow communication between the driving and passenger compartments.
- The bulkhead should have no discontinuities that would allow a passenger to reach into the driver's compartment from the passenger compartment.
- The vision panel section of the bulkhead/safety screen should be constructed of safety glass or any clear material with at least the same impact resistance and safety qualities as that safety glass.
- A lightweight ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be available at all times for use at the nearside rear passenger door.
- An adequate locking device must be fitted to ensure that the ramp/s do not slip or tilt when in use.
- Provision must be made for the ramps to be permanently stored in the vehicle safely when not in use
- All passenger seats must be permanently fixed to the vehicle. Demountable seats that are removed for the purpose of providing space for wheelchair passengers shall not be allowed. Fold away seats are to be permitted providing they remain attached to the vehicle

- Grab handles must be fitted in appropriate positions in all passenger access door entrances to aid passenger ingress and egress from the vehicle while using any steps provided
- There must be no steps within the passenger compartment
- All floor areas and passageways between seats over which passengers will be expected to pass must be free of all steps, encumbrances or trip hazards and have a slip resistant surface
- Only rearward and forward facing passenger seats should be allowed
- All passenger seats must be provided, where possible, with a lap and diagonal 3 point seat belt and where not possible a 2 point lap seat belt appropriate to the type and position of the seat.
- The passenger/passengers confined to a wheelchair must be provided, where possible, with a lap and diagonal 3 point seat belt and where not possible a 2 point lap seat belt appropriate to the position of the wheelchair
- A plate bearing the licence number of the vehicle must be displayed within the vehicle in a position that it is clearly visible to the passengers.
- If a two-way radio system is fitted to a vehicle, it must be positioned and properly secured so as not to interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle and no part of the apparatus may be fixed in the passenger compartment or in the boot
- The vehicle must be less than five years old for new Hackney drivers (and less than 9 years old for current Hackney drivers).

Some of the vehicles that meet the criteria set out in this report are

LTI TXII

TTT Metrocab

Cabdirect - Eurocab (Peugeot, Citroen, Volkswagen, Mercedes)

Jubilee Eurocab

Patons TW200

For more information on appropriate vehicles, please contact the Taxi Licensing Office.