

Annex B - Vehicle Specification/Requirements

All vehicles, including brand-new ones will be subject to a full 'taxi' mot and supplementary test at an approved testing station.

1. The vehicle must comply with the following requirements:
 - Be capable of carrying no more than 8 passengers
 - Have a minimum of 4 opening doors, unless the applicant makes a successful application for dispensation from this requirement
 - Must not be a write-off, regardless of category
 - Have a Euro NCAP of at least 4*
2. There is currently no emissions restriction in place for vehicles licensed by Solihull MBC. However, all licence holders should be aware that the Council has implemented an electric vehicle strategy which can be found here: [Electric Vehicle Strategy](#) and it is important to note that an emissions policy for private hire/hackney carriage vehicles is likely to be introduced in the near future in line with other licensing authorities in the region. Existing licence holders will be given adequate notice and lead in time to change their vehicle if they are likely to be affected.
3. If a licensed vehicle is sold or scrapped and the proprietor wishes to license another one, the date of registration (as specified in the logbook) must be at least 6 months newer than the previous one licensed.
4. The exterior of all licensed vehicles shall be maintained in a clean, safe and proper manner at all times. In particular, the exterior of the vehicle shall:
 - i) be free of large and/or sharp-edged dents,
 - ii) be free of visible rust,
 - iii) be free of unrepaired accident damage (except where an authorised officer has agreed a time period for accident repairs)
 - iv) have uniform paintwork equivalent to that applied by the manufacturer, and
 - v) be maintained in an acceptable state of cleanliness (discretion may be given during periods of adverse weather)
5. The interior of all licensed vehicles shall be maintained in a clean, safe and proper manner at all times. In particular, the interior of the vehicle shall:
 - i) be free of all stains to the upholstery,
 - ii) be free of all splits and tears to the seats,
 - iii) be maintained in an acceptable state of cleanliness, free from odour, and
 - iv) provide seats functioning in accordance with the original manufacturers' specification.

6. Any advisory comments/matters outlined on the MOT certificate should be rectified before the vehicle will be licensed by the authority.

The following requirements relate to the supplementary test ('Taxi' MOT) and will apply to all licensed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

7. The proprietor must ensure that provision is made for the vehicle to be driven safely and legally following a tyre puncture.
8. All four wheels must be of the same design including alloy wheel centre discs. Vehicles without alloys must have wheel trims fitted. All wheel trims must be matching and securely fixed. The locking wheel nut adapter must be present at the time of the test. Tyres must have a tread depth of more than 2mm.
9. Vehicles converted from vans which have a type approval other than M1 will not be acceptable unless they are presented with approved M1 certification for that vehicle.
10. Any vehicles which have had their seating capacity reduced or increased in order to get a licence for Private Hire must also have an Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) test carried out and provide the certificate and amended V5 document.
11. Any vehicle fitted with a tail lift or lifting equipment must produce a LOLER certificate at the time of the test. LOLER stands for "The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998". Lifting equipment includes any equipment used at work for lifting or lowering loads, including attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it. Thorough examinations of the lift should be carried out at least every six months.
12. All LPG converted vehicles must produce a certificate of conformity in line with the Code of Practice of the LPG Gas Association Regulations, at the time of the test. The certificate issued must be from an LPGA approved garage.

The following requirements apply to Limousines.

13. The vehicle must hold a valid Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) Certificate issued by the DVSA. Limousines converted by recognised convertors will only be accepted and evidence of the conversion will be required.
14. The vehicle proprietor must declare to the licensing authority any specific DVLA driver category required to legitimately operate the vehicle.
15. The vehicle will be subject to two 'taxi' MOT's per year.
16. If the vehicle has sideways facing seating, any seatbelts fitted must comply with current seatbelt regulations.
17. The vehicle must be fitted with tyres that meet the appropriate specification for both the size and weight as specified by the convertors. Given the increased weight of the vehicle, tyres of the correct weight and size rating must be used at all times.

The following requirements apply to Hackney Carriages.

18. When licensing a vehicle for the first time, it must be brand new, with delivery mileage only.
19. All vehicles must be purpose traditional London style cabs, purpose built hackney carriages or converted vehicles with the correct conversion certification.
20. All vehicles must be side-loading wheel-chair accessible (WAVs), capable of carrying a reference wheelchair. Associated accessibility ramps and fixings must be available to be assessed at time of testing.
21. A taxi roof sign that can be illuminated when the vehicle is available for hire should be fitted to all vehicles.
22. All vehicles must be fitted with a taxi-meter that is calibrated annually, set to the current tariff and sealed to prevent tampering.