

11. Private Hire Vehicles Conditions

These conditions are attached to all private hire vehicle licences issued by Stroud District Council.

11.1 Vehicle Testing

A private hire vehicle is required to have at least one Council Vehicle Test a year. Vehicles five years and over are required to have a Council Vehicle Test at least every 6 months.

A list of approved garages that can complete this test is available from the Licensing Section.

11.2 Private Hire Vehicle Plates

An external licence plate must be attached to the outside of the vehicle, adjacent or near to the rear vehicle number plate and must be visible at all times that the licence is in force.

An internal licence plate must be attached to the internal bottom passenger side corner of the front windscreen and must be visible from inside and outside the vehicle at all times that the licence is in force.

The plates shall remain the property of the Council and in the event that the licence is suspended, revoked or expired shall be returned to the Council within seven days from the date of a notice served on the licence holder by the Council.

11.3 Plates Exemption

The Council has adopted an 'exemption policy' with regard to the showing of licence plates. – Please see annexe 2.

11.4 Roof Signs

The displaying of signs on or above the roof of a private hire vehicle is strictly prohibited.

11.5 Fire Extinguisher

The licence holder shall ensure that a fire extinguisher is provided in the vehicle and is maintained in good working order and readily available for use in an emergency.

11.6 First Aid Kits

It is recommended that a First Aid kit is carried in the vehicle. However, it is not compulsory.

11.7 CCTV

CCTV systems may be installed in the vehicle with the approval of a Licensing Officer. CCTV systems must be operated in accordance with current legislation including data protection legislation.

11.8 Luggage

All luggage must be stored securely and, if appropriate, the vehicle shall be fitted with suitable equipment to prevent luggage from entering the passenger compartment.

Any roof racks, roof boxes and trailers to be used must be approved by a Licensing Officer.

When using such equipment you should ensure that the luggage is safely secured.

11.9 Seatbelts

For each passenger carried in the licenced vehicle there shall be available a properly fitted, maintained and EU approved seatbelt as per manufacturer's specification.

11.10 Meters

A meter may be installed in a private hire vehicle. However, if installed; it must have a sign attached stating that 'This is a Private Hire Vehicle' and clearly display the tariff to which the meter is set. The tariff set should not exceed the authorised tariff for hackney carriages set by the Council.

11.11 Advertising

Advertising or signs on or in the vehicle of the licence holder's private hire company are permitted. All advertising/signage must be approved by the Licensing Officer.

Any advertising of a private hire company must include the wording 'pre-booked only'

11.12 Third Party Advertising

Third Party advertising is **only permitted with prior written approval of the Council.** The following advertising will not be permitted:

- Anything of a religious or political nature;
- Alcohol or tobacco products;
- Any matter of a sexual nature or likely to cause offence;
- Any matter which is insulting or abusive.

11.13 Change of Address or Details of Licence

A holder of a private hire vehicle licence must notify the Council in writing within seven days of any changes in the details of their private hire vehicle licence including a change of private hire vehicle operator or a change of address.

3.17 THE CONDITIONS BELOW APPLY TO ALL PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES GRANTED AN EXEMPTION BY STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO DISPLAY AN EXTERNAL IDENTIFICATION PLATE, AND ARE IN ADDITION TO THE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS SET OUT IN STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S INFORMATION – TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING DOCUMENT AND THE COUNCIL'S BYE LAWS.

- a) The identification plate and exemption notice provided by the Council pursuant to requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall remain the property of the Council.
- b) Any vehicle granted an exemption from displaying an external identification plate will be required to have the identification plate normally displayed on the rear of the vehicle affixed to the inside of the boot lid. The plate when so affixed **must** be readily visible when that boot lid is raised.

- c) In the event of loss or damage rendering such plate or notice unserviceable the proprietor shall make immediate application for a replacement for which a fee is payable.
- d) The exemption notice issued by the Council will be carried in the vehicle at all times and will be produced upon request to an authorised officer of the Council or any Police Officer.
- e) When issued with an exemption notice, the vehicle will not be required to display any other signs (including the three internal identification discs) which the Council may at any time require private hire vehicles to display.
- f) The proprietor will not display in, on or from the vehicle any advertisement, signage, logos or insignia advertising the operating company or the vehicle's status as a private hire vehicle.
- g) During the period of the exemption notice, the driver shall not be required to wear the private hire driver's identification badge but will have it available for immediate inspection by an authorised officer of the Council or any Police Officer on request.
- h) During the period of the exemption notice the driver of the vehicle whilst engaged on private hire work will be smartly dressed in either a formal chauffeur's uniform or a business suit with collar and tie.
- i) The proprietor shall within 1 working day notify the Council of any change in the use of the vehicle.
- j) The proprietor shall not use the vehicle for private hire purposes other than for executive use (i.e. not for 'normal' airport journeys or daily private hire use).
- k) The driver and passenger front side window glass and the front windscreen must be clear. However, tinted windows can be fitted to the side and rear window glass of the vehicle provided that they comply with current legislation.
- l) The exemption will cease to have effect on selling or transferring the vehicle to another party. The person to whom the exemption is granted must inform the Council of the sale/transfer of ownership immediately in writing and provide details of the new owner. The exemption notice must be returned to the Council along with the private hire vehicle identification plate unless being sold to another private hire operator licensed by the Council in which case, only the exemption notice has to be returned.
- m) A taximeter will not be installed in the vehicle.