

Stroud District Council

Partitions and Screens in Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

Introduction

1. Partitions or safety screens provide a physical barrier between drivers and passengers in the vehicle. They are commonly installed in purpose built hackney carriages as a safety feature to protect the driver from physical attacks or theft. There has been an increase in interest of the use of screens as a way of providing physical separation between drivers and passengers in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
2. Whilst a partition screen between drivers and passengers will not provide 100% protection against transmission of the coronavirus, evidence shows that the use of physical barriers is effective in lowering the rate of infection and spread of the virus.
3. Whether a partition or screens should be installed is a matter for vehicle owners, drivers and/or operators to consider. It is for the vehicle owner, driver or operator to source and make arrangements for the fitting of any partitions or screens.
4. This policy outlines Stroud District Council's policy on the installation of partitions or screens in hackney carriages or private hire vehicles.

Specification

The partition or screen:

1. must comply with the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations and relevant UK and EU safety standards.
2. must be professionally and securely fitted and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Certification from the fitter must be obtained to certify the safety of the fitting and confirmation that it has been fitted to the manufacturers standards
3. should be constructed with a transparent polyvinyl chloride (PVC), Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol-modified)(PETC) or polycarbonate and be of firm or solid design.
4. should not impede the driver's vision, movement, or communication with passengers.
5. should not impede driver or passenger access or egress to the vehicle.
6. must be fitted in such a way so as not to affect the structural integrity of the vehicle or interfere or affect any manufacturer fitted safety equipment or features including headrests, seatbelts, airbags, egress points, CCTV.
7. must not wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear cabin area.
8. must not affect the ability of the vehicle to be properly insured for the purpose of carrying persons for hire and/or reward.
9. must not adversely influence or interfere in any way with vehicle type approval.

10. should not be significantly changed or modified from the original manufactured design. In cases where it is necessary to modify the original design of the device (for example, to facilitate installation of the device in the vehicle), assurances should be sought from the supplier/installer that the modification does not raise any concerns in relation to safety of the device and complies with the relevant UK and/or EC safety legislation.
11. should remain clear and be free of scratches, clouding or stickers which would impede the drivers or passengers' visibility.

Approval Procedure

Permission must be sought from the Licensing Section prior to any vehicle alternations, including installation of a partition or screen, in any vehicles licensed by Stroud District Council.

Permission can be sought by completion of the correct form and returning it to the Licensing Section by email to licensing@stroud.gov.uk.

Once the partition or screen is installed the vehicle owner must email the Licensing Section with the following:

- Certification from the installer
- Photograph(s) of the partition or screen installed in the vehicle

The authority reserves the right to seek any additional information that it might require including, but not limited to:

1. Technical specifications on any partition or screen installed;
2. Confirmation that the vehicle's insurance cover has not been affected by the installation of the partition or screen;
3. Written confirmation from the vehicle's manufacturer that the installation of the partition or screen does not compromise the integrity of the vehicle structure.

Stroud District Council

Proposed Form for Request to Install a Partition or Screen in a Taxi or Private Hire Vehicle

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| Vehicle Licence Holders Name: | |
| Vehicle Registration Number: | |
| Vehicle Licence Number: | |
| Description of partitions or screens: Please include the name of the manufacturer and installer and attach any technical specification or manufacturer's specification if relevant. | |
| Declaration: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I understand that the council will process the information I have provided on this form in accordance with the relevant privacy statement available at https://www.stroud.gov.uk/privacynotice2. I confirm the installation, design and maintenance of the partitions or screen will be in accordance with Stroud District Council's policy and specifications.3. I confirm that once the partition or screen is installed I will provide certification from the installer and photos of the partition or screen installed in my vehicle4. I confirm I have notified my insurers of the material alteration to my licensed vehicle and it has been confirmed that my insurance for carrying passengers for hire and/or reward has not been affected by this alteration. | |
| Date: | |
| Signature: | |