

Taxis and Private Hire Renewals

Immigration Act 2016

With effect from 1 December 2016

What does the Immigration Act 2016 mean for taxi and private hire licence holders?

The Immigration Act 2016 prevents people without lawful immigration status and the right to work in the UK (referred to as Right to Licence) from holding a taxi or private hire driver licence or a private hire operator licence.

Councils, by law, must carry out checks to make sure they do not issue a licence to people who do not have a Right to Licence. These are persons:

- Illegally present in the UK
- Not permitted to work in the UK
- Are permitted to work in the UK but are subject to a condition that prohibits them from holding such a taxi or private hire licence

Who must have a Right to Licence check on renewal?

All nationalities, including UK citizens, who hold a taxi or private hire driver licence or a private hire operator licence must have the Right to Licence check.

If you hold a taxi or private hire driver licence you must have the check the next time you renew after 1 December 2016.

If you hold a private hire operator licence you must have the check the next time you renew after 1 December 2016.

All taxi and private hire drivers and private hire operators will only need to have the Right to Licence check carried out once.

If you have both a driver and an operator licence, we will combine the check.

How will the Right to Licence check be done?

On renewal you must provide us with a suitable document, such as a passport or biometric residence permit, or document combination so we can check you have the Right to Licence.

You must provide us with the document(s) before your current licence expires.

We are not permitted to re-use copies of documents that we already have on file or have seen before.

You must show us original document(s) and bring them to the Council offices in person so that we can check your identity against the document(s) and check that they are genuine.

The document(s) will be copied and the copy retained by the Council. The original document will be returned to you.

If there are restrictions on the length of time you may work in the UK, your licence will not be issued for any longer than this period. In such circumstances, the check will be repeated each time you

apply to renew or extend your licence. If, during this period, you are disqualified from holding a licence because you have not complied with the UK's immigration laws, your licence will lapse and you must return it to the Council, failure to do so is a criminal offence.

What Documents can I use for the Right to Licence check?

There is a full list of acceptable documents for Right to Licence checks on a separate sheet attached. You can find it on-line www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis

UK Citizen - Acceptable Documents

- UK passport (this can also be an expired UK passport)
- Or
- A full UK birth or adoption certificate **and** an official document showing your NI number issued by a Government agency or previous employer

If you need to provide us with your birth or adoption certificate, and you have lost the original, you must apply for a copy. You can order this through the General Register Office by ringing them on 0300 123 1837 or go to their website www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate. The cost is £9.25, or you can pay £23.40 for a next day priority service. Alternatively, you can apply to the local register office where your birth was registered.

EEA* and Swiss Nationals – Acceptable Documents

- Current EEA or Swiss Passport
- Or
- Current EEA or Swiss national ID card

For family members of a UK, EEA or Swiss citizen please see the list of acceptable documents.

* For list of EEA countries see <https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea>

Non UK, EEA or Swiss Nationals – Acceptable Documents

Please see the full list of acceptable documents

What happens if I do not provide the Council with suitable documents?

If you do not provide us with suitable documentation you will not, by law, be able to renew your licence.

If you are unsure please make sure you contact us in plenty of time before your current licence expires.

Contact the Licensing Section, Stroud District Council

Address:	The Licensing Section, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB If you wish to call into the Offices to speak to someone from the Licensing Team we advise that you ring first and make an appointment
Email:	licensing@stroud.gov.uk Phone:01453 754440 Fax:01453 754963 Web: www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis