

Exceptional Condition Policy

Standards used to determine whether a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle is in "exceptional condition". Vehicle proprietors should also note that this policy supplements the current Hackney Carriage bylaws and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions.

1. The bodywork and external trims should be in near perfect condition with no signs of panel age deterioration, dents, scratches, stone chips or rust or any other abrasions that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.
2. The general paint condition should not show signs of fading; discolouration or mismatching that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle. All four wheels whether alloy or furnished with wheel trims should match and not be cracked or damaged.
3. The interior trim, panels, seating and carpets and so on should be in excellent condition, clean, free of damage, rips, holes, stains and discoloration.
4. The vehicle service record can be used as supporting evidence of exceptional condition in that a vehicle of exceptional condition would normally be expected to demonstrate regular servicing and maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's service specification.
5. The boot or luggage compartment to be in good condition, clean, dry and undamaged.
6. Passenger areas to be free from damp or any other odours that may cause passenger discomfort. The Interior lighting must also be in good working order.
7. The vehicle is to be in excellent mechanical condition and in all respects safe and roadworthy with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or body work.

Authorised Officers may if deemed necessary request a vehicle be presented at a designated testing station for a compliance test.

Under Section 68 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Fitness of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles:-

Any authorised officer of the Council in question or any Constable shall have power at all reasonable times to inspect and test, for the purpose of ascertaining fitness, any hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licensed by the County Borough Council or any taximeter affixed to such a vehicle, and if he is not satisfied as to the fitness of the hackney carriage or private hire vehicle or as to the accuracy of the taximeter he may by notice in writing require the proprietor of the hackney carriage or private hire vehicle to make it or its taximeter available for further inspection and testing at such reasonable time and place as may be specified in the notice and suspend the vehicle licence until such time as such authorised officer or constable is so satisfied.