Private Hire Specification

Effective from 14 September 2023

**Introduction**

Vehicles operated under Private Hire Car Licences issued by North Lanarkshire Council must comply with the undernoted specification and must be maintained in accordance with this specification throughout the currency of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Please note that this specification sets minimumstandards that Private Hire Cars must meet. However, even if a vehicle meets these standards, the Council will still assess whether the vehicle is suitable overall for use as a Private Hire Car. The Council will give general consideration to the type, size and design of the vehicle.

Any new models will be subject to inspection by North Lanarkshire Council.

**If you are considering a vehicle of a type not already licensed by the Council (this includes new models of existing approved vehicles) it is in your interest to contact the Council as to the suitability of the vehicle PRIOR to making a purchase. Tel: 01698 506241**

Please ensure that the vehicle presented for test meets the minimum requirements, as any vehicle that does not meet the standards will be rejected.

Vehicles operated under private hire car licences issued by North Lanarkshire Council must comply with the undernoted specification and must be maintained in accordance with this specification throughout the currency of the private hire car licence.

1. **Wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs)**
2. Peugeot Eurobus (side door wheelchair entry) – Allied Vehicles
3. Peugeot Premier (rear door wheelchair entry)- Allied Vehicles
4. VW Caddy Maxi Life (rear door wheelchair entry) – Brooke Miller conversion – one seat to the left of the driver, 3 fixed rear seats 60/40 split in the rear plus space for one wheelchair passenger
5. Ford Tourneo Connect (rear door wheelchair entry) – Alfred Bekker conversion – one seat to the left of the driver, 3 fixed rear seats 60/40 split in the rear plus space for one wheelchair passenger
6. Peugeot Horizon (rear door wheelchair entry) – Allied Vehicles conversion – one seat to the left of the driver, 3 fixed rear seats 60/40 split with two of these seats folding forward to allow the wheelchair access.
7. VW Caddy – Rear entry WAV Automotive Group Conversion
8. Ford Tourneo – Brotherwood Automobility Limited Conversion – one seat to the left of the driver and 2 permanent seats in the rear plus 1 wheelchair passenger

**All vehicles to have Whole Vehicle European Type Approval**

1. **Age Limits**
2. **Age Limits for Purpose Adapted Vehicles**

Vehicles shall be no more than 9 years old calculated from date of first registration to date of grant of a licence, date of renewal of a licence or date of substitution of vehicle.

**Vehicles over 9 years will be subject to twice yearly** **Inspection.**

**This age limit is in effect from 5 February 2015**

1. **Age Limits for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles:**

Vehicles shall be no more than 5 years old calculated from date of first registration to date of grant of a licence, date of renewal of a licence or date of substitution of a vehicle.

**This age limit is in effect from 13 January 2005**

1. **Vehicle Requirements**
2. shall have a minimum engine size of 1500 cc with a minimum of 60Kw / 80bhp for petrol engines, turbo diesel engines, and non turbo diesel engines. Electric vehicles and hybrids must have a minimum of 60kw / 80bhp;
3. shall be a production line 4/5 door right hand drive suitable saloon, estate or hatchback vehicle ( if vehicle is a 5 door hatchback type the fixed rigid rear parcel shelf must remain in position during the duration of the hire ), if not such a vehicle, a vehicle falling within paragraph (c) below. All seats must be forward facing;
4. if it is a multi-person vehicle (MPV) or people carrier type vehicle a maximum of 6 passengers will be permitted ( that is for avoidance of doubt, excluding the driver). It should be noted that a vehicle will be classed by the Council for the purpose of this specification as an MPV or people carrier, regardless of any manufacturer description, if it has three rows ( including front driver’s row ) of individual seats for passengers. All seats must be forward facing;
5. shall have a minimum seating capacity for 4 adult passengers and a maximum seating capacity of 6 adult passengers (both excluding the driver);
6. shall allow for a minimum seating width of 410 mm per seat per passenger or 1230 mm overall, measured in accordance with the provisions of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing ) Regulations 2002 and any amendment thereof;
7. shall have a minimum distance between front and rear seats of 203mm;
8. shall have a minimum luggage capacity of 11.4 cubic feet (323 litres ). Where the vehicle is not designated for luggage to be kept separate from the passenger compartment in a boot covered by a rigid fixed rear parcel shelf, then the vehicle must be fitted with a manufacturer approved load partition/restraint that can be fixed securely to the interior of the vehicle to form a secure partition between luggage space and passengers;
9. shall not have its vehicle specification altered from manufacturer’s equipment. There are limited exceptions to this condition. Please contact the Council on the number provided for further information;
10. shall remain painted in the original manufacturer’s colours unless re-sprayed to a standard to be solely determined by the Council. All visible parts must be re-sprayed (including door sills and door check). **In the South Licensing Area the vehicle must not be white. In the Central Licensing Area the vehicle must not be black**;
11. shall be provided with seating of uniform colour and material;
12. shall be provided with carpets of uniform colour and material;
13. shall have external mirrors fitted to its nearside and offside;
14. shall be fitted with a properly maintained suitable fire extinguisher with either a manufacturers’ date or an expiry date ( minimum 0.5kg – maximum 1.0kg dry powder or foam ) held in an appropriate fastener and in an approved position having regard to passenger safety and ease of access thereto;
15. shall carry a properly maintained and suitable first aid kit (1 – 10 people) with either a manufacturers’ date or expiry date;
16. if it is a MPV/People carrier shall have a minimum distance between the seats for legroom of 220 mm;
17. where a row of seats is available between the front seats and the rear seats (middle row), the middle row must fold and tip on both sides to allow access to the rear row of the seats. Where there is a middle row of seats the rear seats must be able to stow to the side, fold forward or lie flat to provide luggage space;
18. shall comply with current legislation regards fitting of surveillance equipment/display screens. Fixed mobile telephone & charging equipment/points can only be fitted in accordance with MOT regulations in regards to obstructing the driver’s line of vision;
19. Private Hire plates should be fitted to the vehicle at the rear most position of the vehicle next to the registration plate or on the rear bumper. Private hire plates must not be fitted or placed in the rear window.
20. **Dual Fuel Conversion**

The Council has approved in principal dual petrol and liquid gas fuel systems. Approval for such vehicles will be granted when the vehicle meets all other vehicle specifications and when the conversion has been undertaken by an approved Company. For details of approved contractors contact the Licensing team –

[LicensingEnquiries@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:LicensingEnquiries@northlan.gov.uk)

1. **Protective Screens**

Protective screens are allowed to be fitted behind the driver and front passenger seat so long as there are no structural alterations made to the vehicle. The Council’s Fleet Operations will have to inspect and approve the fitment of the protective screen and will issue a letter confirming whether the screen fitted is temporary or permanent and the protective screen will be checked at each annual inspection of the vehicle.