Taxi Specification

Effective from 14 September 2023

**Introduction**

Vehicles operated under Taxi Operator’s 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 Taxi Operator’s Licence.

Please note that this specification sets minimumstandards that taxis 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 taxi. 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.

1. **COUNCIL APPROVED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN THE NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AREAS:-**

Purpose Built Vehicles:

(1) Metrocab

(2) LTI – TX1

(3) LTI – TX2

(4) LTI – TX4

(5) LEVC TX

Side Access Purpose Adapted Vehicles:

(6) Peugeot Euro 7

(7) Peugeot E7 (including Series 2)

(8) Peugeot Eurotaxi

(9) Peugeot Expert Teepee – Eurotaxi

(10) Fiat TW200

(11) Fiat Scudo Urban 7 Eurocab (Jubilee)

(12) Mercedes Vito 111 CDI

(13) Citroen Eurotaxi

(14) Ford Transit Tourneo Custom

Rear Access Purpose Adapted Vehicles:

(15) Peugeot Premier (rear door wheelchair entry) - Allied Vehicles

(16) VW Kudos (rear door wheelchair entry) - Allied vehicles

(17) 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

(18) 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

(19) 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

(20) VW Caddy – Rear entry WAV Automotive Group Conversion

(21) VW Vista – (mobility version of the VW Kudos)

(22) VW Caddy Maxi Life – converted by Allied – 4 passengers + 1 wheelchair

(23) VW Caddy Maxi Life – converted by TBC – 4 passengers + 1 wheelchair

(24) Ford Freedom SWB – seats need to fold to allow wheelchair

(25) Ford Freedom LWB – 4 passengers + 1 wheelchair

(26) Ford Tourneo Connect Flame – converted by GMC Coachwork – 1 seat to the left of the driver – 3 passengers in the rear row and 1 wheelchair passenger behind them

(27) Peugeot Premier Plus – carrying 4 passengers + 1 wheelchair passenger, longer wheelbase so no need to fold seats

(28) Ford Tourneo – Brotherwood Automobility Limited Conversion – 1 seat to the left of the driver and 2 permanent seats in rear plus 1 wheelchair passenger

**Note: numbers 21 to 28 need to have the full width roof sign**

**All vehicles to have Whole Vehicle European Type Approval and have a Certificate of Conformity**

**Please note that purpose built/ purpose adapted vehicles will only be permitted to carry a maximum of six passengers who must be in the rear of the vehicle. No passenger to be seated to the left of the driver (this requirement does not apply to two rear access purpose adapted vehicles listed). All purpose built/ purpose adapted vehicles should have adequate heating and lighting in the rear of the vehicle for passenger comfort. Vehicles must be fitted with motion sensor locks.**

**Occupied wheelchairs may only be transported facing forward or rearwards. The wheelchair must be secured independently of the occupant. The wheelchair occupant must be secured completely independently of the wheelchair.**

2**. AGE LIMITS**

1. **Purpose Built Vehicles:**

Vehicles shall be no more than 12 years old calculated from date of first registration to date of grant of a licence, date of renewal of licence or date of substitution of vehicle. **Vehicles over 12 years will be subject to twice yearly inspection.**

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

1. **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 inspections.**

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

(3) **Non-wheelchair accessible vehicles permitted to trade in the South and Central Areas:**

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 1 January 2006**

3. **VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS**

1. 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;
2. shall have fitted a swivel seat approved by the Council by first inspection and maintained thereafter;
3. shall have a minimum seating capacity for 4 adult passengers and a maximum seating capacity of 6 adult passengers (both excluding the driver);
4. 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;
5. shall have a minimum distance between front and rear seats of 203mm;
6. shall have a minimum luggage capacity of 11.4 cubic feet (323 litres);
7. 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 ) All seats must be forward facing;
8. shall have an approved fare structure card displayed in a visible position;
9. shall have a sealed meter securely fixed and wired through the taxi sign. The sign must not be operated through a separate switch.
10. shall not have its vehicle specification altered from manufacturer’s equipment except in relation to installation of a swivel seat;
11. shall be white in colour for South Area and black in colour for Central Area – vehicle re-sprays are permitted to a standard solely determined by the Council. All visible parts must be re-sprayed (includes door sills and door checks );
12. shall be provided with seating of uniform colour and material except in relation to the installation of a swivel seat;
13. shall be provided with carpets of uniform colour and material;
14. shall have external mirrors fitted to its nearside and offside;
15. shall have a full width taxi sign minimum 36 inches of a specification approved by the Council fixed securely to its roof with the cable securely clipped – the sign must not show red at the front or white at the back;
16. shall be fitted with a properly maintained suitable fire extinguisher with either a manufacturer’s date or an expiry date (minimum 0.5kg – maximum 1kg dry powder or foam) held in an appropriate fastener and in an approved position having regard to passenger safety and ease of access thereto;
17. shall carry a properly maintained and suitable first aid kit (1 – 10 people) with either a manufacturer’s date or expiry date
18. shall comply with current legislation regards fitting of surveillance equipment/display screens, fixed mobile telephone and charging equipment/points can only be fitted in accordance with MOT regulations in regards to obstructing the driver’s line of vision;
19. taxi plates should be fitted to the vehicle at the rearmost position of the vehicle next to the registration plate or on the rear bumper. Taxi plates must not be fitted or placed in the rear window.

4. **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)

5. **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.