

If you are considering making an application for a new/replacement vehicle you must ensure that the vehicle you are wishing to licence fully complies with the Council's current Policy and Conditions. These can be found at <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-people/licensing/private-hire-and-hackney-carriage-vehicle-licences/>

An application for a vehicle licence will only be accepted with a Certificate of Compliance issued by Cowpen Depot dated no more than 28 days prior to the submission of your application.

AGE RESTRICTION POLICY

Applications for new and replacement vehicles will only be considered if the vehicle is no older than five years from the date of first registration. If a licence is granted, a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage saloon vehicle can remain licensed until the vehicle reaches the maximum age limit of twelve years and a Private hire or Hackney Carriage wheelchair accessible vehicle can remain licensed until the vehicle reaches the maximum age limit of fifteen years.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

The following outlines some of the criteria that must be met.

MPV's (multi-purpose vehicles, i.e. people carriers) will not be licensed as a Hackney Carriage saloon vehicle.

Vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance "write off" (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C or S) and/or endorsed as being "accident damaged" on their V5 document will not be licensed.

Vehicles must be exceptionally well maintained and all vehicles must be type approved.

The rear seat dimensions must be adequate to carry the appropriate number of passengers and must provide a minimum:

- Seat width of 44cm for each person
- Headroom measured from centre of seat to underside of roof – 75cm

The vehicle shall have interior lighting fitted in the passenger compartment sufficient to illuminate the whole of that compartment. The light(s) shall be switched such that they may be turned on and off both from the driving and passenger compartments and shall operate automatically when a door is opened.

The windows should maximise passenger visibility into and out of the vehicle. If tinted glass is fitted, it shall have minimum light transmittance of 75% for the front windscreen, 70% for the front windows and 30% for all rear window glass (unless previously exempted by the Council).

A proportion of the window area in the passenger compartment must be available for opening by the seated passenger.

The vehicle shall have at least 4 doors which open sufficiently wide so as to allow safe and easy access and egress and provide the following minimum opening measurements:

- Door width 712mm (28")
- Door height 875mm (33")

Each passenger, other than a front-seated passenger, must have access to at least two doors. Lap and diagonal seatbelts must be fitted to all seats.

Head restraints must be fitted for all forward and rear facing seats. The design of headrests should maximise rear sightlines for the driver when any of the passenger seats are not occupied.