

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 a The vehicle must have four wheels and a minimum of four doors. The doors must consist of two doors on both near and off side of the vehicle and does not include hatchback / boot doors. The requirement for a minimum of four doors does not apply to a purpose built minibus with gangway.
- b The vehicle must be equipped with a spare wheel and sufficient tools and equipment to enable the spare wheel to be fitted in the event of damage or puncture. Where the manufacturer does not supply a spare wheel the vehicle must be supplied with Run Flat Tyre / Foam Aerosol.
- 2 The Vehicle must have at least 1400cc engine capacity.
- 3 Vehicles must be presented for inspection in a clean and roadworthy condition and must be free from any rust on bodywork.
- 4 Vehicles shall not be submitted for inspection with any accident damage and the Head of Housing and Public Protection must be informed of accident damage within 72 hours of the damage occurring.
- 5 The Vehicle must be right hand drive, **with the exception of stretch limousines**.
- 6 The Vehicle must not be of such type, design or appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage. **Austin FX4 (London Cab), Peugeot Expert / Tepee / Euro Taxi, Fiat Scudo, Citroen Dispatch etc type vehicles will not be acceptable.**
- 7 The vehicle must be capable of carrying at least four passengers in addition to the driver and not more than eight passengers. The rear seating must be as manufactured and have appropriate seat belts per person. The minimum acceptable width of seat section per person is 410 millimeters at the widest point of the seat which can include unequal seated sections. Limousines to have a minimum seating capacity of six and a maximum of eight.
- 8 The Vehicle and all its fittings and equipment must be in an efficient, safe and clean condition and must comply with all relevant statutory requirements, including in particular those contained in Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations.
- 9 The seats in the Vehicle must be properly cushioned and free from damage.
- 10 The floor of the Vehicle must be provided with a proper carpet or other suitable covering.
- 11 There must be adequate space within the vehicle for the carrying of passengers' luggage and this space must be clean and water tight. **A roof rack may not be fitted.**
 - b) A roof box may be fitted, providing :
 - i) It must comply with Road Traffic (construction and use) Regulations, and be appropriate for the type of vehicle used.
 - ii) The roof box must be of enclosed container construction (not an open roof rack with loose cover).

- iii) The roof box must only be used for the purpose of extra luggage, such as golf clubs, large suitcases etc., and not for the carriage of goods or livestock.
 - iv) The hirer must be with the vehicle at the time the roof box is in use.
 - v) No part of the roof box or fitments to remain on vehicle when not being used for carrying extra luggage.
 - vi) No advertising, wording or numbers to be allowed on the roof box.
 - c) No trailers to be used by any Private Hire Vehicle.
- 12a) The Vehicle must be fitted with an efficient dry powder variety fire extinguisher of a minimum weight of 1 kg. The extinguisher shall be securely fixed in a position so as not to interfere with the control of the vehicle and so as not to be tampered with by a member of the public.
- b) Each extinguisher to be serviced annually by a competent inspector and an appropriate inspection record to be available.
- 13 The Vehicle must be equipped with a first-aid box as follows:-
- A first-aid kit containing:-
- i) six individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings (plasters)
 - ii) one large sterile unmedicated dressing
 - iii) two triangular bandages
 - iv) two safety pins
 - v) individually wrapped moist cleaning wipes
- shall be carried in the vehicle at all times securely fixed in the boot of the vehicle for use in case of emergency. There shall be no obligation on Private Hire Drivers to administer first aid treatment.
- 14 Any meter for recording fares fitted in the Vehicle must be in such a position as not to be visible from the outside of the Vehicle but clearly visible to the passengers.
- 15 If the Vehicle is currently licensed by the Head of Housing and Public Protection for private hire the licence plate issued by the Council must be securely fixed externally to the front and rear of the Vehicle in a conspicuous position and secured in such a manner so as to be easily removed by any Authorised Officer or Constable.
- 16 a) A complete adhesive sign, provided by the Head of Housing and Public Protection shall be displayed at the top front of both rear passenger door windows so as to be clearly visible to persons boarding the vehicle. The sign shall be of a maximum size 180 mm X 130 mm containing the information as specified by the Head of Housing and Public Protection.
- b) It is also permissible to display the Vehicle Operator's Name, Telephone Number and / or Website Address on the front and rear screen of the vehicle. Any display must not interfere with visibility or compromise safety. There shall be no reference to the word "Cab" or "Taxi".
- c) There may be displayed on the side of the vehicle the Name, Telephone Number and or Website Address of the Operator with whom the vehicle proprietor carries on business.

d) With aforementioned exceptions, no signs, notices, advertisements, plates, marks, numbers, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices whatsoever shall be displayed on, in or from the vehicle **except** as may be required by statutory provision of these conditions, **or with prior written authorisation of the Council**

e) Display in the Private Hire Vehicle, an Identification Card, provided by the Local Authority, inside the front windscreen giving driver identification to the inside of the vehicle.

17 If the Vehicle is currently licensed by the Council for private hire the number of the licence and the number of passengers permitted by the licence to be carried in the Vehicle must be clearly marked inside the Vehicle as to be visible at all times to passengers carried in the Vehicle.

18 There must be in force, in relation to the Vehicle, a policy of insurance or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

19 There must be in force, in relation to the Vehicle, a valid MOT test certificate (if appropriate) and a current road fund licence.

20 Every seat in the Vehicle shall be fitted with a safety belt.

21 LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) Conversions must be accompanied by LPG Conversion Certificates provided by a suitably qualified engineer.

22 Additional conditions for stretch limousines :-

- a) The vehicle must pass a Single Vehicle Approval (SVA up to 2009) / Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA 2009 on) inspection of its design and construction at a Vehicle Inspectorate testing station. **The Approval Certificate or Certificate of Compliance must be presented to this Authority, together with its DVLA Registration Document (V5) and evidence of the date of manufacture of the vehicle.**
- b) The maximum length of the "stretch" shall not exceed 120"/3048mm.
- c) No passengers are to be in the front of the vehicle.
- d) The vehicle must be fitted with tyres of a rating specified by Ford USA i.e. vehicles registered before 1998 – 235/75R 15 108S (BF Goodrich Extra Load or Equivalent). Versions from 1998 onwards must be fitted with 225/70R 16 107T (Reinforced).
- e) Any tinted glass shall conform to the legal requirements as laid down by the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA). The passenger compartment may be fitted with blackened glass. All blackened and tinted glass must be fitted as standard at point of manufacture, but any modifications from standard will not be acceptable.
- f) No form of entertainment or activity of a like kind shall be permitted without written consent from this Authority.
- g) Bookings for vehicle(s) which are solely for use of children under the age of 16 years must be accompanied by either a parent/guardian or a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked escort. A declaration, to be completed by the parent/guardian responsible for the journey, prior to the commencement of the journey providing details of the persons travelling and the name and contact details of the person responsible for the booking. A copy of the form must be carried by the driver.

- h) Vehicles may be required to undergo a metal fatigue test at the discretion of this Authority. The cost of this test to be borne by the Operator.
- i) Alcoholic drinks provided in the vehicle shall be under the terms of an appropriate licence relating to the sale or supply of alcohol. For bookings for groups of passengers under 18 years, plastic glasses and bottles must be used and alcoholic drinks must be locked away or removed from the vehicle prior to the commencement of the journey.
- j) The normal conditions applying to the licensing of Operators and Drivers to apply.

Please note that Wrexham Council does not have the facilities to issue MOT Certificates for Limousines.