



## Woking Borough Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification for DDA/Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Adopted by Licensing Committee 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
Applicable from 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 until further notice

The following applies to all vehicles presented and applying for **new** Woking Borough Council hackney carriage vehicle licenses after the stated date.

It also applies to all vehicles presented as replacements for currently (or future) licensed, DDA/Wheelchair accessible Woking Borough Council hackney carriage vehicle licenses.

This specification applies to all new and replacement vehicles as stated above, superseding any circumstance or reason under which or when, the new/original renewal/replacement licence was issued; for example, but not exclusive to, licenses issued pre and post derestriction, via ballot, appeal, demonstrating a need, area/event restricted or other.

This specification will also apply to any hackney carriage licence originally issued to a vehicle of the type saloon, MPV, estate or similar, that is due to become DDA/wheelchair compliant after 31.03.2020.

### DDA/Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Specification for Hackney Carriages

- I. Where the vehicle presented is for the issue of a **new** Hackney Carriage Licence, in addition to the specification below, the vehicle must also be brand new.
- II. Where the vehicle presented is for the issue of a replacement/renewal Hackney Carriage Licence, in addition to the specification below, the vehicle must also meet Woking Borough Council's terms and conditions on age of replacement vehicle (separate policy).

All the following then apply and must be true:

- A. Vehicles must be purpose built (\*H), have full "Taxi" specification and have wheelchair access via ramp, lift or other. Steps or running boards should be fitted where necessary.
- B. There is no restriction on colour of bodywork but the vehicle should be free from external advertising, unless Council approved, excluding Woking Borough Council identification or logos, Woking Borough Council Licensed Operator details and taxi livery.
- C. Without wheelchair passenger, vehicle must be able to accommodate a minimum of 5 seated passengers, occupying their own seat and having their own seat belt, and have luggage/boot space remaining that is not in or part of any passenger compartment, occupied or not. (NB. Provided this minimum specification is achieved it is acceptable that additional luggage/capacity can be stored/accommodated in passenger compartments or that passengers may chose to carry luggage in the compartment).
- D. With wheelchair passenger, vehicle must be able to accommodate 3 seated passengers, occupying their own seat and having their own seat belt, plus 1 wheelchair and user with correct safety restraints in place and have luggage/boot space remaining that is not in or part of any passenger compartment, occupied or not. (NB. Provided this minimum specification is achieved additional luggage as per C above is acceptable).
- E. Both C and D must be true for a vehicle to be acceptable. Luggage/boot space is defined as at least 0.7m<sup>3</sup> available or equivalent to accommodating 2 pieces of luggage approximately 60cm x 45cm x 25cm (for example, 2 pieces of cabin approved hand luggage).



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- F. A wheelchair and user should be able to access and exit the vehicle via at least one door using a ramp, lift or other. There must then be at least one additional door/means of exit available, in an emergency, through which the wheelchair user can be evacuated. Exit through this door must not involve the removal of seats/fittings or the wheelchair user being lifted over additional seats/fittings.
- G. Removable, sliding or folding seats (excluding flip-down style) will not generally be allowed especially where they make the seating capacity of the vehicle ambiguous, they reduce luggage capacity or access whilst stored, would require a wheelchair user to wait whilst seats were removed and stored or where condition F is affected or not met.
- H. (\*) Woking Borough Council believes its specification makes available a wide range of vehicles for owners and users alike. However, it also accepts that certain one-off adapted vehicles can also meet these needs provided they are converted to a high standard and gain any necessary certification. Drivers who wish to present such a vehicle do so entirely at their own risk as each one will only be validated and accepted for testing after a visual inspection, V5 and certificate check by a Licensing Officer. Woking Borough Council previously accepting a similar vehicle is not a guarantee that a vehicle presented will also be accepted because, by definition, these vehicles are individually produced and therefore will be individually assessed. Vehicles must still meet requirements B,C,D,E,F,G and I. Specification A must be met in terms of the vehicle being equipped to Hackney Carriage/Taxi standards (i.e. including, but not necessarily exclusive to, WBC branded taxi top box or integrated, taxi meter etc).
- I. Once licensed, a vehicle must at all times remain compliant with all of the conditions A-I under which it was first licensed or renewed, regardless of the nature of work it is carrying out. For example, seats may not be added to the vehicle in lieu of a wheelchair passenger should the vehicle be hired privately, work for a private hire operator or be carrying out other duties.
- J. Failure to declare something that may exclude a vehicle from being licensed or presenting a vehicle to be licensed that does not meet any part of this specification will result in a refusal or a licence being immediately suspended pending revocation. Such actions may also jeopardise the owners Woking Borough Council issued drivers licence.
- K. Issuing of a licence to a vehicle will automatically bind the owner, subsequent owner, hirer or user of said vehicle to this specification and terms in addition to any other terms and conditions of licence already in operation.
- L. All specifications are subject to change and potential drivers/owners should always check they have an up to date version of Woking Borough Council's requirements before buying or reserving a vehicle.

Additional notes: Drivers investing in a brand new vehicle direct from a supplier may wish to consider any additional features or options available when ordering. Full taxi specification will provide a vehicle that is a very high standard and has excellent features but optional extras added at the time of purchase mean their cost can be spread and adding at a later date is often more expensive and takes the vehicle off the road. Examples may be adaptations to allow forward facing wheelchairs, safety features for driver, intercoms, powered steps, and ramp upgrades etc. These examples are not an exhaustive list and are not compulsory or part of the minimum specification but for drivers/owners to consider.