

DBC Statement of Compliance – Explanatory Guidance

1. Fog lamps (front & rear) – Operation & Condition

These must operate when switched on, lenses should not be cracked or broken.

2. Number plate lamps (front & rear) – Operation & Condition

These must operate when vehicle lights are switched on, lenses should not be cracked or broken.

3. Brake/clutch pedal rubbers – Condition

These should be free from excessive wear & damage.

4. Spare wheel – Present & Condition

A spare wheel must be present, and in a road worthy condition. If vehicle is not equipped with a spare wheel, a canister of instant wheel repair must be present.

5. Wheel brace & jack – Present & Condition

Above tools should be present and in a useable condition.

6. Windscreen washers (front, rear & headlamp) – Operation

These must operate when switched on.

7. Windscreen wipers (front, rear & headlamp) – Operation & Condition

These must operate when switched on in all positions. Condition of wiper blades should be of an acceptable level.

8. Silencer – Operation

The silencer should reduce the level of noise from the exhaust to an acceptable level.

9. Security of battery – Condition

The vehicle battery must be securely fitted, with no signs of corrosion around fixture.

10. Carpets (front & rear) – Condition & Cleanliness

These should be free from excessive tears, burns and stains. Furthermore the carpets should not show signs of excessive wearing, and should be neatly and securely fitted. If mats are used, these too should be clean and secure.

11. Door & window handles – Operation

All door handles and window mechanisms must be intact and working properly.

11. Door Signs – Present

Private Hire Only – maximum size 30" x 16", must include the name and/or the company logo, the words "LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE CAR" and be displayed on the front doors only of the vehicle. Vehicles used for executive or contract hire are exempt from this requirement.

12. Bodywork & bumpers – Condition

Rust - any vehicle presented should be free from any significant areas of visible rusting. Although minor blemishes should not constitute a failure, the following general criteria should be followed; any vehicle with visible rust patches, should be failed.

Dents – any vehicle with minor dents on one or more panels, where such dents are more than 5cms in diameter/length should be failed. Panels with more than one dent of any size should be failed.

Scratches – any vehicle with un-repaired scratches to bare metal on 3 or more panels, of 5cms in length, or a single scratch of more than 20cms in length, must be failed.

Paint-work – should be in good condition; panels with unmatched colours or in primer, should be deemed as failures.

Bumpers – No splits, cracks or other significant damage. Any repairs should have been carried out in a professional manner.

13. Upholstery & roof linings – Condition

These should be clean & in good condition. Fabric should be free from excessive tears, burns & stains.

14. Exterior Plate – Present

Licence Plate – issued by the Council bearing the number of the licence granted in respect of the vehicle, shall be securely fixed on the rear outside of the vehicle in such a position that it shall be clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle. In the case of vehicles exempt from displaying the plate (Private Hire Only), the plate and the Notice of Exemption issued by the Council, should be carried on the vehicle at all times and available for inspection. This requirements does not apply to vehicles not previously licensed. In these circumstances the Testing Station should clearly mark this section with the wording "New Application – Not Yet Licensed".

15. Boot interior – Condition

The boot space should be clean & tidy, and capable of carrying a reasonable amount of luggage.

16. Roof signs (Hackney only) – Present

To be fitted over the centre of the roof of the vehicle, a minimum size of 14” in length by 4½” in height. Showing the word “TAXI” to the front, and if required the owners name and telephone number on the rear side. The lettering of the word “TAXI” must not be less than 2½” in height, and any other wording must not be in larger letters than the word “TAXI”.

17. Road fund licence – Present

A valid road fund licence must be securely positioned in the bottom left hand corner of the front windscreen.

18. Interior licence plate – Present

Internal plate – the double sided interior plate issued by the Council, bearing the number of the licence granted in respect of the vehicle, shall be displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle. The plate shall be displayed in such a position that it is clearly visible from the outside of the vehicle, and to passengers travelling in the vehicle whilst it is being used for hire. This requirement does not apply to vehicles not previously licensed. In these circumstances the Testing Station should clearly mark this section with the wording “New Application – Not Yet Licensed”.

19. Radio/car phone – Position

If fitted, any 2-way radio equipment must be securely fitted. The position of the radio handset should be located within the centre consul of the vehicle. Similarly if a car phone is installed, it should be securely fitted and located on or near to the vehicle centre consul.

20. Tariff card (Hackney only) – Present

A current tariff card should be located in the vehicle so as to be clearly visible & legible to all passengers.

21. Meter sealed – Condition

A visual check must be undertaken to ensure that all meters are sealed.

22. Interior lighting – Operation

All interior lights must work correctly when switched on, or when doors are opened.

23. Seating capacity – Visual

Vehicles must not exceed seating capacity as specified on licence plate.

24. Fire extinguisher – Present & Condition

The Fire Extinguisher, which must be of the dry powder type, must be charged (evident by a gauge if fitted) or properly sealed (tamper-proof seal), be securely fitted and readily available for use in an emergency. Ideally, it should be secured in the boot of the vehicle, but still accessible when there is luggage in the boot space.

25. First aid kit – Present & Condition

The First Aid Kit should be securely fitted and adequately stocked with a range of basic first aid equipment. It too should be readily available for use in an emergency, and may be kept either inside the vehicle or located in the boot.

26. Guard rail to rear compartments (Estates only) – Present

A securely fixed guard rail must be provided in the case of estate type vehicles, to effectively separate the luggage and passenger compartments, to safeguard passenger safety.

27. Windscreens – Condition

The windscreen must free from signs, notices and advertisements except for those required by other statute or as permitted by the Council.

28. Wheel Trims – Condition

If wheel trims are fitted, all four should match and be securely fitted.

29. Any Other Items (Inspector’s Discretion)

This final section allows for some discretion on the part of the Vehicle examiner for items that are neither covered by the MOT Test nor the Compliance Test schedule above. This may mean items such as oil leaks, illuminated warning lights, leaking / blowing exhaust or any other item that the examiner considers not necessarily dangerous but nevertheless actually or potentially detrimental to the Vehicle’s overall condition could lead to a failure. Broadly speaking, licensed Vehicles are expected to be of a high standard, and so items normally considered ‘insignificant’ should be rectified to pass the Compliance Test.