

LICENSING OF STRETCHED LIMOUSINES – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

1. The general conditions imposed by Huntingdonshire District Council (hereafter referred to as the Council) for Private Hire Vehicle Operators, Drivers and Vehicles will be applicable to the licensing of stretch limousines unless amended by the following provisions.

1.2 the type of work undertaken by stretch limousines will differ significantly from that of regular private hire work in that the vehicle will only be licensed for the carriage of passengers for special events, examples of which are:

- Prom nights
- Theatre trips
- Hen nights
- Stag nights
- Party trips
- Race days

or any other similar events considered by the Council to be special in nature. However, vehicles use solely for weddings and funerals are exempt from the requirements of private hire licensing.

2. PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS LICENCE

2.1 Persons taking bookings for private hire work using stretch limousines will be required to hold a private hire operator's licence issued by the Council.

2.2 All bookings of a limousine for use as a private hire vehicle must be made through a licensed private hire operator. Any vehicle licensed by the Council will only be used for hire under the terms of a private hire operator's licence already issued or granted to an operator within the District or to any new licensed operator.

3. PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS LICENCE

3.1 Any person driving a stretch limousine for private hire will be required to be licensed as a private hire driver by the Council.

4. DEFINITION OF A STRETCH LIMOUSINE

4.1 A stretch limousine is defined as a motor vehicle that has been lengthened by the insertion of an additional body section and modified by an authorised coachbuilder that is capable of carrying up to but not exceeding 8 passengers. There will be no age limit for first registration and no maximum upper age limit, subject to the vehicle being mechanically and physically maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Council's standard conditions relating to private hire vehicles as referred to in paragraph 1 above.

4.2 Once licensed as a private hire vehicle, the limousine will be subject to any statutory requirements imposed by Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

4.3 Stretch limousines will be regarded as luxury vehicles used for special events. The use of such a vehicle for standard private hire work is not considered to be appropriate.

5. VEHICLE TESTING

5.1 A stretched limousine vehicle will be subject to a twice yearly mechanical examination at intervals to be specified by the Council at its authorised testing station to determine its safety and suitability for the type of work for which it is to be licensed. This will apply to all stretched limousines regardless of age, date of import or date of registration. The Vehicle Registration Document V5 must indicate in the field "Type Approval Number" that it has undergone one of the following approvals and meets the technical standards of either:

- a European Whole Vehicle Type approval, or
- a British National Type approval, or
- an Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) (formerly known as the Single Vehicle Approval scheme (SVA)).

5.3 Where applicable, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plate shall display '1L1' to confirm conversion completed by an authorised dealer.

5.4 Documentation is to be provided proving that the 'stretch' was performed by the manufacturer or by a coachbuilder approved by the vehicle manufacturer e.g.

American limousines must have been built by an approved coachbuilder under the QVM programme for Ford Vehicles or the CMC programme for Cadillac Vehicles.

5.5 A plate on the door pillar shall confirm the total weight of the vehicle.

5.6 DVLA V5 or equivalent shall be produced to authenticate registration.

6. VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Given the increased weight of the vehicle, tyres of the correct weight and size rating must be used at all times. The limousine must be fitted with tyres that meet the appropriate specification for both the size and weight of the vehicle, such as 235/75R-15 108D (BF Load) or 225/70R-16 107T Town Car Limo Tyre (Reinforced).

6.2 All LPG vehicle conversions must have been carried out by a (Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association) LPGA Approved installer and the vehicle proprietor issued with an LPG Conversion Certificate which must be produced when applying for either a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle licence

6.3 The vehicle must display on the front and rear screens, a sticker stating that the vehicle has been fitted with an LPG tank for the purpose of alerting the emergency services in the event of an accident

6.4 Vehicles may either be left or right hand drive.

6.5 Vehicles must be fitted with at least 4 doors.

6.6 All seats shall be fitted with appropriate seat belts, which must be fitted in accordance with the current Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations.

6.7 Any sunroofs fitted must be securely fastened in a locked position so that passengers are unable to tamper with them. Passengers must not be allowed to exhibit any parts of their anatomy through such openings.

6.8 Stretch limousines with heavily tinted glass in the windows behind the driver's cockpit will be considered for licensing. Glass in the driver cockpit must satisfy the current legal requirements. Tinted glass shall conform to the legal requirements as laid down by the Vehicle Operators Services Agency (VOSA).

7. PASSENGERS

7.1 The limousine's seating capacity must have been reduced where necessary to a maximum of 8 passengers.

7.2 The vehicle must not carry more than 8 passengers at any time and for this purpose a babe in arms will be classed as a passenger no matter what their age.

7.3 Where passengers in the vehicle consist of persons under the age of 16 years they must be accompanied by a responsible adult, other than the driver, who is over the age of 18 years.

7.4 Passengers must not be carried in the front compartment.

8. INSURANCE

8.1 The vehicle must have 'hire and reward insurance' to carry out private hire work and a fully policy of insurance must be presented before the vehicle is licensed.

8.2 No intoxicating liquor shall be provided in the vehicle unless there is in force an appropriate licence under the Licensing Act 2003 permitting the sale or supply of the same.

9. ALCOHOL

9.1 Alcohol shall only be served while the vehicle is stationary and afterwards all bottles shall be placed in a secure receptacle.

9.2 If there are any passenger's below the age of 18, then there shall be no alcohol on the vehicle.

9.3 Any 'glassware' in the vehicle must be made of either shatterproof glass or plastic.

10. ENTERTAINMENT

10.1 The driver shall not play or permit the performance of any media which, because of its age restricted classification or its content, is unsuitable for the age of the passengers in the vehicle (based on the age of the youngest passenger).

10.2 Entertainment provided in the vehicle shall be under the terms of any relevant legislative requirements. Activities which are prohibited within the vehicle are:

- Striptease
- Lap Dancing
- Pole Dancing
- Any other activity or performance of a like kind.

10.3 The driver of the vehicle shall not knowingly permit to be played any video, DVD or other recording image that is unsuitable having regard to the age of passengers being conveyed. In deciding what a suitable regard shall be, the driver must take notice of the classification of the video, DVD or recorded image awarded by the British Board of Film Classification

11. ADVERTISEMENTS

11.1 No signs, notices or any other markings will be displayed on or in the Vehicle without the written permission of the Council. There is no requirement for the vehicle to display a door sign denoting the operator's details.

11.2 In any advertisement publicising their limousine service, the operator must state that the vehicle is only licensed to carry a maximum of 8 passengers and a sign to this effect must be displayed within the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

12. RIGHT OF APPEAL

12.1 Under Section 48 (7) of the 1976 Act, any person aggrieved by the refusal of the Council to grant a Private Hire Vehicle Licence, or any conditions specified in such a licence may appeal to a Magistrates' Court.

NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE GENERAL CONDITIONS RELATING TO PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES MAY RESULT IN THE COMMENCEMENT OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, AND/OR IN THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF AN EXISTING LICENCE, OR IN THE REFUSAL TO ISSUE A NEW LICENCE.