

# Amendment to Vehicle Licensing Conditions

## Licensing Committee, item 6

**Committee:** Licensing Committee

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 13 September 2006

**6**

**Title:** Amendment to Vehicle Licensing Conditions

**Author:** Murray Hardy, Licensing Officer (01799)  
510598

Item for  
decision

---

### Summary

This report arises from a request from Checker Cars for the Committee to consider amendments to our current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions.

### Recommendations

Members determine whether they wish to change the vehicle conditions to permit vehicles not to carry a spare wheel.

### Background Papers

Letter from Mr P Wiggins, VOSA  
Letter from Pirelli Tyres Ltd  
Letter from Ford Motor Company  
Letter from Checker Cars  
Memo from Depot Manager at Great Dunmow

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	The trade associations have been consulted and made aware of the proposals. VOSA and tyre manufacturers have been consulted
Community Safety	No specific implications
Equalities	No specific implications
Finance	No specific implications
Human Rights	No specific implications
Legal implications	No specific implications
Ward-specific impacts	No specific implications
Workforce/Workplace	Vehicles subject to inspection by our workshop in Great Dunmow

## **Amendment to Vehicle Licensing Conditions**

### **Licensing Committee, item 6**

#### **Situation**

- 1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which has been adopted by this Council, allows for conditions to be placed upon the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. These conditions are primarily targeted at the safety issues that effect public transport within this district.
- 2 All of the current conditions are kept under review due to the motor manufacturing industry, coupled with new technology coming into the market place. Changes to our conditions have been made previously to take account of this.
- 3 Operators within this District are aware of the new designs coming onto the market and regularly change their vehicles to meet the new demands placed upon them.
- 4 Currently the operator, Checker Cars, who are based at Stansted Airport, are proposing to take delivery of the brand new Ford Galaxy which now no longer comes with a spare wheel. Our present conditions require that a spare wheel is carried on all of our licensed vehicles so that the vehicle is not stranded, especially with passengers on board if a puncture occurs.
- 5 At the present time, we have a multi purpose and multi manufacturers fleet which would still require a spare wheel to be carried, especially those operators who solely specialise in school transport work.
- 6 The amendment to our conditions does have the support of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, subject to the caveat that for a temporary repair of a tyre using an aerosol then the vehicle is subjected to a maximum speed limit of 50 mph and does not exceed 100 miles after the temporary repair has been made. This primarily will allow the vehicle to either return to its base or complete the passenger's journey. However, VOSA are primarily concerned with safety and not the comfort or convenience of passengers.
- 7 Pirelli have declined to comment upon the suitability of aerosol repair kits referring officers instead to Ford Motor Company. Letters have been sent to Ford, Michelin and Goodyear, but at the time of preparation of this report we still await responses from Michelin and Goodyear. Any reply received before the Committee meeting will be reported verbally.
- 8 Anecdotal evidence is that aerosol repair kits do not always function. In the event of a car suffering a puncture which could not be repaired using the aerosol there is potential for significant inconvenience to fare paying passengers who maybe being carried at the time.
- 9 Checker Cars currently operate a Private Hire Service at Cardiff and Gatwick airports whereby both local authorities permit the Ford Galaxy to be used without the requirement of a spare wheel.

## Amendment to Vehicle Licensing Conditions

### Licensing Committee, item 6

#### Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Aerosol repair kit fails to inflate a deflated tyre	Medium as no statistical data has been provided as to the efficacy of these kits	High Passenger could be stranded until a replacement vehicle found	Members should balance the risk of inconvenience to the fare paying public against the cost to operators of having to supply a spare wheel