

Hackney carriage vehicle specification

- Passenger door windows must be capable of being opened easily by passengers when seated.
- The top of the tread of the lowest step / running board for any entrance (or where there is no step, the floor level itself at the entrance) must not be more than 38cm above the ground when the vehicle is unladen.
- Apertures in the floor used for the purposes of a step must be highlighted in a high-visibility material to alert passengers to their presence.
- The risers of all steps must be closed.
- All steps, or where there are no steps, the outer edge of the floor at each entrance, must be fitted with non-slip treads which must be highly visible at all times.
- Adequate lighting must be provided for the passengers' compartment and must be capable of being controlled by passengers.
- The flooring of the passengers' compartment must be covered with non-slip material which can be cleaned easily.
- Provision must be made for carrying luggage / wheelchairs appropriate to the number and type of passengers and an efficient method of securing it must be provided.
- Suitable wheelchair restraints and seatbelts must be provided for the use of wheelchair occupants.
- Anchorages must be provided for the wheelchair and chairbound disabled person to the latest industry standard. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other.
- A ramp(s) for the (un)loading of wheelchair passengers must be available at all times for the safe access and egress of passengers. Adequate locating device(s) must be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use. The ramp(s) must be of sufficient strength and stability such that they will not bend and will remain stable during use and must be of a safe working limit of at least 300 kg over its entire length. The ramp(s) must be capable of being stowed away securely and safely when not in use.
- Hand contact points, handles and head contact hazards must be identified in high visibility materials and easily distinguishable.
- Suitable means must be provided to assist persons to rise from the rear seat.

- The steering wheel must be on the off-side of the vehicle.
- For driver safety, a bulkhead / screen must be fitted to separate the rear and front compartments.
- A hearing loop must be fitted in the vehicle.
- The door and doorway must be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the doorway of at least 750 mm when the door is opened to its normal limit.
- The clear height of the doorway must not be less than 1.195m
- Where seats are placed facing each other there must be a clear space of 48cm between any part of the front of a seat and any part of any other seat which faces it. This measurement may be reduced to 43.5cm provided adequate foot room is maintained at floor level. Where all seats are placed facing to the front of the vehicle, there must be a clear space of at least 66cm in front of every part of each seat cushion.
- Rear facing seats must be so arranged as to rise automatically when not in use. They must be symmetrically placed and at least 4cm apart. When not in use front seats must not obstruct doorways.
- The controls must be properly protected from contact with luggage.
- The driver's seat must be designed to accommodate the driver only.
- An adequate heating and ventilation system must be fitted and maintained in good working order for the driver and passengers and means provided for independent control by the driver and passengers.
- An approved type of automatic door locking device must be fitted to passenger doors.
- When the vehicle is stationary, the passenger doors must be capable of being readily opened from the inside and outside the vehicle by one operation of the latch mechanism. The interior door handle must be easily identified so as not to be mistaken for any other control.
- A rooflight stating the words "taxi" or "for hire". The design must be such that the illuminating light can be switched off when the vehicle is hired or out of the Rushmoor area, independently of the taxi meter or any other system.