

HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE – LICENSING CONDITIONS

1. The carriage and harness shall be produced for examination and inspection by an assessor from the British Driving Society; annually and at such times and at such places as may reasonably be required.
2. The Council shall be notified if any alteration is proposed to be made to any part of the carriage, before such alteration is carried out and may consult with a BDS assessor.
3. The operator shall carry out a daily inspection to ensure that the horse is in good health and the carriage is kept in good working order and that the inside and outside is clean.
4. The floor of the carriage shall be covered with mats of a suitable material.
5. The carriage shall either have a watertight roof and a means of opening and closing windows or, in the case of an open carriage, be used in fair weather conditions only.
6. The seats of the carriage shall be properly cushioned or covered; fittings and furniture shall be kept clean and adequate for the convenience of persons conveyed therein.
7. The carriage shall at all times display the plate showing the hackney carriage licence number.
8. An unfit vehicle notice shall be issued by an authorised officer of the Council, to any operator or driver whose vehicle is deemed unfit to use or whose vehicle is in breach of any of the above conditions. The unfit vehicle notice would prohibit the vehicle being used until the defect had been rectified to the satisfaction of the authorised officer.
9. The number of passengers carried in the carriage shall not exceed such number as may be authorised by the Council, no child under the age of 14 should be permitted to ride without at least one adult, and no passenger under ten years of age shall be allowed to travel at the front beside the driver.
10. A fully paid up insurance policy in respect of the vehicle, covering public liability insurance in the sum of £5 million shall be in force during the currency of the licence and this policy shall be produced to an authorised officer of the Council at such times and at such places as may be reasonably required.
11. A valid horse passport, specifying the current owner of the horse, must be produced on application/renewal for each animal used; and be available for inspection by an authorised officer on request.
12. All horses engaged in pulling a carriage must be certified by a veterinary surgeon with equine experience as capable so to do.
13. During their work breaks horses should be removed from the vehicle and taken to a place where they can be fed and watered (the harness may remain in place).
14. Every part of the harness of animals drawing a carriage shall be kept in order so that the animal is properly and securely attached to the carriage and under due control.
15. In the event of an authorised officer of the Council having reason to suspect that an animal being used in the operation of a horse-drawn carriage is unfit to fulfil its functions, that animal shall be subjected to immediate inspection by a qualified veterinary surgeon and the licensee shall meet the costs involved. Where an animal is so found to be unfit its use in the operation of a carriage shall be discontinued until such time as a certificate of fitness signed by a qualified veterinary surgeon is produced to the Council's officer.

16. All horses engaged in pulling carriages should be a minimum of 6 years old, adequately trained in harness, with 12 months regular experience of being driven in harness. Physically fit, temperamentally and behaviourally suitable, of a suitable height and correctly harnessed.
17. All horses engaged in pulling carriages must be adequately shod by a farrier who is registered with the Farrier's Registration Council for the purposes of providing commercial horse drawn services on the public highway.
18. A horse-drawn carriage shall not be used unless a dung catcher is fitted to the vehicle, which has the effect of preventing at least 90% of the horse dung from being deposited on the highway.
19. It shall be the operator's responsibility to ensure that no horse is allowed to work more than 6 hours a day, with a one hour break in the middle, over a 5 day working week. Each operator shall maintain and keep a log, in their carriage, of the hours of operation for each horse used.
20. When standing and plying for hire the licensee shall exhibit a table of fares and no person shall be charged in excess of the table of fares. The choice of single or return journeys being at the discretion of the hirer.
21. The licence shall be revoked in the event of the Council being reasonably satisfied that a breach of the foregoing conditions or any act or byelaw relating to carriages has occurred.
22. A driving whip should be, carried in hand and used as an aid to communication, but not as an instrument of punishment.
23. No horse under 6 years of age, mare in foal or within 6 months of foaling shall be used to draw a carriage.
24. The licensee shall provide such evidence as the Council may reasonably require relating to the suitability of any horse to be used to pull a carriage.