

# **OXFORD CITY COUNCIL**

## **Licensing Committee**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**Report of: Transport & Parking Business Manager**

**Title: Tinted Windows in Licensed Vehicles**

**Ward: All**

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**Key Decision: No**

**Lead Member:**

**Scrutiny responsibility: Not applicable**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended:-

To approve the proposed changes in conditions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The current Conditions of Fitness for both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles contain an identically worded paragraph in respect of visibility into and out of the vehicle;
2. The regulation was introduced for the safety of both passengers and drivers by requiring that there be a clear view of the occupants from outside the vehicle. This would also aid enforcement.
3. Quantifying the degree of darkness of glass has caused problems both to the applicant and to testers. This report seeks to clarify the position.
4. Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 requires the minimum amount of light that must be transmitted through the glass of the windscreen and front side windows of a motor vehicle to be 75%. This applies to all vehicles of an age that could be licensed as private hire or hackney carriage. Following accidents, apparently caused by the restriction in visibility caused by darkened front side windows and windscreen, the regulations were amended to apply also to tints or films applied to the glass after manufacture.

## **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

5. For both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

*Windows allowing clear and unobstructed view into and out of the vehicle must be provided at the sides and at the rear.*

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONDITIONS

6. It is proposed that the standard required by legislation for the windscreens and front side windows of motor vehicles be adopted for *all* the windows of vehicles licensed by this Authority, replacing the present condition. The condition is worded in such a way that no alteration should be needed if legislation is amended and will not be applied retrospectively.

*Windows must be provided at the sides and at the rear of the vehicle. The light transmission of any window in any position must not be less than that currently required of the front windscreen and side windows by The Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986.*

*The light transmission through the windows of vehicles licensed prior to the introduction of this regulation may not be reduced in any way from that present when the vehicle was approved for licensing.*

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY

Legal & Democratic Services (Jeremy Franklin)

The Transport & Parking Business Manager

Financial Management (Claire Reid)