

Report of: Transport & Parking Business Manager

To: General Purposes Licensing Committee

Date: 13th September 2007 **Item No:** 5

Title of Report : Criteria and Conditions of Fitness for Hackney Carriages
& Private Hire Vehicles – Wheels and Tyres.

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To update the Criteria and Conditions of Fitness for licensed vehicles to take account of changes and developments in motor vehicle technology.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Scrutiny Responsibility:

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by:

Graham Smith. Transport and Parking Business Manager
Daniel Smith Legal & Democratic Services

Policy Framework: None

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:-

To approve the amendment to the Criteria and Conditions of Fitness for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

Background

1. By condition of licence, all licensed vehicles are currently required to carry a spare wheel and tyre of the same type as those fitted to the vehicle, together with tools sufficient to change the wheel.
2. A number of vehicles are now supplied from new with either a spacesaver tyre or are fitted with run-flat tyres, there is no provision for a full sized wheel and tyre to be carried.
3. Spacesaver or compact spare wheels are used as a temporary replacement and are normally limited to being used at a maximum speed of 50 mph.
4. With run-flat tyres, no spare wheel is supplied, as the vehicle is able to continue at a speed that would not be possible with a normal tyre. A warning system is provided to inform the driver of the loss of pressure. The vehicle can be used for between 50 and 100 miles.
5. Whilst it would be preferable for a full sized wheel and tyre to be carried to enable a journey to be completed at normal speed following a puncture this now not proving to be possible in all vehicles. This has posed problems for some proprietors who have either been unable to licence a vehicle or have had to purchase an additional wheel and tyre to be carried in the luggage area which restricts the carrying capacity.

Amended Condition

6. If an amendment to conditions to permit run-flat and spacesaver tyres is approved, the fact they are only a temporary solution to the problem of a puncture must be mentioned and that they are acceptable only to enable a journey already commenced to be completed.

Wheels and Tyres

7. Below is recommended change in condition for both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

All wheels and the tyres fitted must be of the correct type, size and the correct pressure for the vehicle. Unless the vehicle is supplied by the manufacturer with approved run-flat tyres or a spare wheel and tyre of a compact design as original equipment, a spare wheel and tyre of the same type as that fitted to the vehicle and at the correct pressure must be carried.

It is essential that vehicles with run flat tyres be fitted with a working tyre pressure monitoring system.

Where a wheel and tyre of compact design (space saver) is carried, tools sufficient to allow the spare wheel to be fitted during a journey will be carried in the vehicle in a safe and secure position.

The vehicle must only be used with a space saver tyre or when normal pressure has been lost from a run flat tyre to enable a hiring to be completed and then must only be used in accordance with the parameters prescribed by the manufacturer. The vehicle may not be used for any further hirings until the wheel and tyre has been replaced by a wheel and tyre of the correct type for the vehicle or the run-flat tyre has been replaced.

Human Rights

8. Although a licence is deemed to be a possession covered by Article 1, of the first Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights, no licence has yet been granted to a new applicant by this Authority, thus

any decision made by the committee to change the criteria of new applicants will not be subject to Article 1.

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