

Hackney Carriage Drivers

An individual requires a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence before they can drive a Hackney Carriage. In addition the vehicle will require a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence also known as a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence. (Section 37 TCPA 1847)

It is an offence to ply for hire unless both the driver and the vehicle are licensed.

The Chichester District Council 'Hackney Carriage Byelaws', together with the relevant statutory provisions, lay down the Code of Conduct and requirements relating to Hackney Carriage Drivers.

1. ELEGIBILITY

The application requirements for a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence are that the applicant must:

- hold and have held a Full Drivers Licence for at least 12 months;
- be a fit and proper person for the duties of driving a Hackney Carriage vehicle for public/private hire. Any convictions or cautions, including motoring offences will be considered in the light of the Council's Policy Guidelines for Convictions;
- be physically and mentally fit;
- be over the age of 21;
- pass the Council's 'Knowledge Test';
- provide business and/or personal references to the satisfaction of the Council.

In addition to these provisions, all applicants for a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence shall be required to successfully pass a driving test with the Driving Standards Agency (DSA). As all Hackney Carriages are Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles, the DSA test shall include an additional component on the carriage of persons in wheelchairs. This test shall be at the expense of the applicant.

Existing drivers will not be required to undergo this DSA test. Where it becomes evident that a licensed drivers' driving ability has fallen below the standard considered to be safe or where a driver has acquired between 7 to 9 penalty points on their DVLA driving licence, a licensed driver should undergo the DSA test. If such a test is failed, consideration will be given to suspend a driver's licence until they successfully pass. This decision will only be taken by the Assistant Director Environmental Health) under existing delegated powers where there is a potential risk to the public.

An applicant or driver would meet the cost of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire DSA test.

2. FITNESS

All new applicants are required to undergo a medical examination by a Doctor to Group 2 Vocational Standard, based upon the prescribed D4 medical examination required by the DVLA. In addition, all existing drivers are required to undertake a medical examination every four years and annually from the age of 60 years.

This Council shall only accept a medical certificate completed by an applicant's own Doctor or a Doctor from the same medical practice who has access to a patient's medical history notes. The same requirement shall apply to existing drivers.

On each renewal of a licence applicants are required to make a declaration as to their physical and mental fitness.

3. POLICE CHECK

All new applicants are required to obtain a Standard level Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) search. All existing Drivers will be required to complete a CRB search every three years.

4. CONVICTIONS and CAUTIONS

Any licensed driver shall within seven calendar days report to the council in writing details of any conviction(s), caution(s) or Fixed Penalty Notices for crime or endorsable offences, ASBO's or penalty notices for disorder, imposed on him or her during the period of the licence, including all motoring offences or pending proceedings.