



GUIDANCE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS AND PROPRIETORS PERMITTING AUTHORISED TRAILERS

No trailer of any description shall be attached to the licensed vehicle except in accordance with a written authorisation issued by the Council. Any trailer shall be provided and used in accordance with the Council's Guidance for Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers and Proprietor.

- 1) Each trailer will be authorised for use with one nominated licensed vehicle only. Any trailer must be presented for inspection at the Council's Test Centre prior to its first use and again at each inspection of the vehicle with which the trailer is authorised to be used. The trailer must be presented with the vehicle for which its use is authorised. This will ensure that the vehicle, trailer and its attaching mechanism are fit, safe and suitable for use.
- 2) The trailer must only be used on pre-booked journeys when excess luggage is to be carried and not for general use. This condition is to prevent proprietors/drivers using the trailer unnecessarily and causing greater congestion on the roads. Licensed vehicles with trailers are not permitted on the Hackney Carriage Rank at any time.
- 3) The trailer must be of a suitable size to carry excess baggage for the number of people the vehicle is authorised to carry and no larger.
- 4) The trailer must comply with all aspects of current legislation and be of a type recommended by the vehicle manufacturer as being suitable for the intended towing vehicle. This is to ensure that the vehicle with trailer remains fit, safe and suitable for purpose.
- 5) The vehicle must be suitable for towing the intended trailer. This will ensure that the vehicle has an engine large enough to tow the trailer, the brakes are powerful enough to stop the vehicle and trailer safely and that the Gross Trailer Weight (GTW) does not exceed the Towing Capacity of the towing vehicle.
- 6) The trailer must have affixed to it a manufacturer's plate specifying the manufacturer's name and address, the chassis and serial number, the number of axles, maximum weight per axle, nose weight of the coupling, maximum gross weight and the date of manufacture. From 1 January 1997 the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulation 71A, states that trailers with a maximum design weight not exceeding 750Kgs must be fitted with a plate displaying their year of manufacture in a clearly visible position.
- 7) Unbraked trailers must not exceed 750kgs gross trailer weight or half the towing vehicle's kerb weight. This is to comply with the law in relation to vehicle, trailers and their weights.
- 8) Unbraked trailers (manufactured from 1 January 1997) must have a secondary coupling that will provide some residual steering in the event of an unplanned uncoupling. This

- device should also prevent the ball coupling hitting the ground in similar circumstances. It must be connected to the towing vehicle when the trailer is being towed. This is to prevent any unnecessary accidents.
- 9) Braked trailers must be fitted with a parking brake that operates on at least two road wheels on the same axle. At all times it must be capable of being maintained in operation by direct mechanical action without use of hydraulics, electric or pneumatic systems ie push rod or cable action. The efficiency of the handbrake must comply with EEC Directive 71/320/EEC.
 - 10) An emergency breakaway cable must be fitted to the parking brake linkage and the other end clipped or fixed round a fixture on the towing vehicle so that, in the event of the trailer becoming detached from the towing vehicle, the cable applies the parking brake automatically before snapping itself.
 - 11) All tow bars fitted must be of a type approved by the manufacturer of the vehicle and fitted by an approved agent. This is to ensure that untested tow bars are not fitted to vehicles.
 - 12) Trailers must have on the rear, two red sidelights, two red stop lamps, an illuminated number plate and two triangular red reflectors plus indicators designed to flash between 60 and 120 times per minute. All lights must be kept in working order. If more than 1.3 metres wide, they must also have at least one red fog lamp. This is to comply with the requirements of the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989.
 - 13) All trailers built after 30 September 1990 require front reflectors.
 - 14) No advertising will be permitted on any part of a trailer. This is to comply with current standards and conditions applicable to private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licensing.
 - 15) The trailer must be fitted with securely fastening covers, which can be hardtop or canvas tarpaulin type. This is for safety reasons and drivers should ensure that any luggage is securely fastened so as not to present any danger to other road users, passengers or damage to the luggage.
 - 16) When the trailer is used with the licensed vehicle, the licence plate issued by the Council, specifically for that trailer, shall be clearly displayed on the trailer. The details provided on this plate refer to the vehicle it is to be used with and not the trailer itself. This is so that the vehicle can be identified from the rear and also to comply with legislation. The cost of the plate will be the same as that for vehicle plates.
 - 17) A spare wheel for the trailer must be carried whilst the trailer is in use so that in the event of a puncture the journey would not be delayed any longer than necessary. Space saver type spare wheels are not permitted.
 - 18) The vehicle must be insured to tow the trailer.
 - 19) A charge will be made payable for the inspection of the trailer which will be recouped from the proprietor of the vehicle.

- 20) A licensed driver will be permitted to tow a trailer whilst driving a licensed vehicle provided that:
- i) the driver holds the appropriate category on his DVLA licence;
 - ii) it is the proprietor's/vehicle licensee's responsibility to ensure that the trailer towed by his vehicle complies with the legislation and the Licensing Conditions;
 - iii) it is the proprietor's/vehicle licensee's responsibility to ensure that the driver towing the trailer holds the appropriate category DVLA licence.

This policy is to ensure the driver and vehicle owner complies with the law and other legal requirements.