

Appendix E - Private Hire Vehicle Plate Exemption Conditions

The conditions listed below apply to all Private Hire vehicles granted an exemption from South Cambridgeshire District Council from the requirement to display an external identification plate (private hire vehicle licence plate). The following conditions in addition to the standard conditions required for private hire vehicles.

1. The vehicle licence plate and exemption notice issued by this Licensing Authority in accordance to the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall remain the property of this Licensing Authority.
2. Any vehicle granted an exemption from displaying a vehicle licence plate will be required to have the internal licence displayed in a prominent place, visible to all passengers.
3. In the event of loss or damage rendering the internal plate or identification, or exemption certificate unserviceable the operator shall make immediate application for a replacement for which a fee is payable.
4. When issued an exemption notice, the vehicle will not be required to display door signs which this Licensing Authority require private hire vehicles to display.
5. When issued an exemption certificate a taximeter must not be installed in the vehicle.
6. The operator will not display in or on the vehicle any advertisement, signage, logos or insignia advertising the operating company or the vehicle's status as a private hire vehicle.
7. The operator will not display in or on the vehicle any advertisement, signage, logos or insignia advertising third party companies, products or services.
8. Council issued Internal Vehicle Notices must be displayed in a prominent position so that it can be seen by all passengers.

This notice must include the following information:

- The business name of the operator, or proprietor if it is a Hackney Carriage

- The telephone number of the operator, or proprietor where it is a Hackney Carriage, where a customer can make a complaint or report a concern
- The vehicle registration number
- The vehicle licence plate number

Alternative signage is not permitted.

9. During the period of the exemption certificate the driver will not be required to wear a private hire driver badge but must have it available for immediate inspection by an authorised officer of this Licensing Authority or any police officer on request.
10. During the period of exemption notice the driver of the vehicle whilst engaged on private hire work will be smartly dressed in either a formal chauffeur's uniform or business suit with collar and tie.
11. The operator will notify this Licensing Authority immediately of any change of use of the vehicle.
12. The driver and passenger front side window glass and front windscreen must be clear. However tinted windows can be factory fitted but must comply with current legislation and comply with any current private hire vehicle conditions.
13. The exemption will cease to influence the sale or transfer of the vehicle to another party. The person to whom the exemption is granted must inform this Licensing Authority of the sale or transfer of ownership immediately and in writing. The exemption notice must be returned to this Licensing Authority along with the internal Private Hire vehicle licence plate.
14. Vehicle models must be either four door saloons, or five door estates or five door hatchbacks, or luxury style people carrier type vehicles.
15. Vehicles must be of a standard of comfort and equipped to a level equal to or above luxury brands of vehicles such as "S" and "E" Class Mercedes- Benz, 7 Series BMW, Lexus "GS" or "LS" models, Audi A8 Series, Jaguar, Rolls Royce and Bentley saloons. (The highest specification executive type cars from other manufacturers may also be considered)
16. The vehicle will be in pristine condition with no visible defects, dents or blemishes to the external bodywork or internal trim and seating

17. The type of work is “executive” in nature. This means that the vehicle is used solely to provide transport under a written contract to a company or person, or by the type of clients who for security or personal safety reasons would not want the vehicle to be identifiable.

18. The type of work which would be considered for the grant of an exemption could be termed ‘executive style’. Such work includes but is not limited to: –

- contracts with senior personnel of large companies to carry managing directors or their clients
- contracts with national or local government, or similar agencies, to carry senior personnel and guests on official business
- the carriage of well-known personalities such as sports or ‘pop’ stars;
- the carriage of the bride and/or groom to a wedding (but not guests)