



Guidance on the installation of protection screens in licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles

Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles are principally intended for the conveying of passengers to their destination.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic taxi drivers may be adversely affected due to their proximity to passengers and the City Council should assist where it can in ensuring Taxi drivers have a safe system of work, as required by Health and Safety at work legislation. The installation of screening in vehicles is an option and any such screening must be properly regulated by the Council to ensure acceptable standards.

These guidelines relate only to the makes and models of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles approved for use in Carlisle City Council District as at the date of issue of the guidelines.

These guidelines reflect the Council's requirements as at the date of issue and amendments may be issued as and when necessary.

Due to the Covid19 epidemic, Carlisle City Council accept that the fitting of protective screening within Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles is an acceptable measure.

Applications for protection screens will be considered by the Licensing Manager and any appeals as a result of the process will be referred to the Regulatory Panel.

Protection Screens

Protection screens must be properly, professionally and securely fitted from a manufacturer/installer who can provide documentation as to its specifications.

The screen must not interfere with the front seat belts, vehicle airbags and not be fitted in any way which impedes the movement or vision of the driver.

Polycarbonate screens are considered most reliable for providing both strength and flexibility but alternative materials will be considered so long as documentation is provided from the installer/manufacturer that it meets safety standards and can be effectively cleaned and disinfected

All screens should be mounted within the vehicle and fitted securely, thus separating the driver and passengers.

The screen must be transparent; both driver and passenger must be able to see and communicate with each other clearly.

The screen will become part of the vehicle testing regime.

Procedure for Obtaining Approval for a Protection Screen

All applications for the fitting of a protection screen on a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle must be made by email to licensing@carlisle.gov.uk or by writing to the Licensing Manager, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle CA3 8QG.

Details of the material and proposed installation of the intended screen must be provided together with details of the installer/manufacturer.

Outlining details of the proposed installation should be provided including details of the manufacturer/installer and full specifications.

The applicant is required to declare that they have contacted their insurance company and confirm that the installation of the protective screen does not invalidate their vehicle insurance for hire and reward purposes.

Written provisional approval will be sent/emailed to the applicant normally within 24 hours of the decision being made.

It is essential that all the details of the type of screen and fitting is shown on the original submission. If it is not then the application may subsequently be rejected. Any changes made following the provisional approval must be agreed with the Licensing Manager who will give written agreement to the changes being made.

Final Inspection

A Licensing Officer will make arrangements to inspect the vehicle when it is safe to do so. The screen will continue to be inspected as part of the routine vehicle testing programme.

Licence holders are made aware that the screens do not offer total protection for the transmission of viruses and should be part of a rigorous and regular cleaning regime of the vehicle.