

Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle compliance testing standards

Huntingdonshire District Council [*licensing authority*] is one of a number of councils that have adopted an annual testing regime for the vehicles that it licenses that exceeds the MOT testing standards set by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency [DVSA;] formerly the Vehicle Operating Standards Authority [VOSA.]

The rationale for which is to set the testing standard; *'the bar'* higher than that expected of a private motor vehicle. The reason for this is, licensed vehicles are used more frequently on the highway, for longer periods of time and will therefore be subject to more *'wear and tear'* and mileage.

On 20 August 1992 Huntingdonshire District Council [*licensing authority*] was granted an exemption by the Secretary of State for Transport permitting it to issue a Certificate of Compliance to a vehicle that it had tested to an agreed standard; annually in accordance with the regulations under Regulation 6 (4) of the Motor Vehicle (Tests) Regulations 1981.

All vehicles that pass the authority's mandatory test and which are then subsequently licensed by Huntingdonshire District Council are subject to the authority's Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions. A copy of which can be found on our website together with all other [licence conditions and the current policy](#).

Huntingdonshire District Council would like to reassure the public that should a licensed vehicle; either a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle fail the Certificate of Compliance test on dangerous or major category, the vehicle shall be issued with an immediate suspension notice due to a non-compliance with Council requirements and criteria of fitness in law [Section 68 of the Local Government Miscellaneous] Provisions Act 1968.

For vehicles being presented for testing with a view to being licensed for the first time are also expected to undergo the same mandatory test, regardless of the age of the vehicle. This includes new vehicles that have been registered with that current year's registration mark, for example the prefix 20 for all vehicles registered from 01 March 2020.

It is unlawful for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle licensed by the Council to be driven on the highway without a current Certificate of Compliance.