



Private Hire Vehicles Identification Plate Exemption Policy and Conditions

Approved work for which exempt vehicle may **only** be used:

1. Corporate bookings to transport employees and clients on corporate business journeys and/or
2. Airport and other 'special' journeys where the client specifically requests a vehicle of a prestige specification at the time of booking and pays a recognisably higher fee for that service compared to that charged for a non exempt vehicle displaying corporate identity.

Approved Vehicle Specification

In view of the vast numbers of makes and models of vehicles available, it is preferred not to produce a definitive list of vehicle makes and models that could be approved. We do not want to restrict any further than those vehicles which do not meet the following criteria.

The approval of an exemption will be based on the cost, reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels of a vehicle and the fact that it will not resemble a non exempt private hire vehicle licensed to undertake the 'normal' day to day role. Each application will be considered on its individual merits.

1. Saloon and hatchback vehicles to be licensed for 4 passengers only plus the driver allowing sufficient space for adult passengers to travel comfortably.
2. Engine size 2000cc or greater.
3. A range of vehicles capable of carrying in excess of 4 passengers will be considered provided they meet the higher specification and original list price required.
4. Vehicles seating more than 4 passengers will be licensed only for sufficient numbers of passengers to travel comfortably. Each seat must be adequate dimensions and must permit direct access into and out of the side doors of the vehicle without the need to move, remove or fold down any seat. No vehicle modifications from the manufacturer's specification are accepted.
5. The original list price of any vehicle must be a minimum of £28,000 in spite its age on application. This minimum price will be exclusive of any extras added at the time of purchase. Evidence of the original new list value will be obtained at the time of application. Officers must be satisfied the evidence provided verifies the original list value.
6. The vehicle must have a minimum specification of at least air condition/climate control to front and rear seats, all electric windows, central locking and front and rear headrests sufficient for each passenger.

7. Male drivers are required to wear a suit or jacket and trousers plus shirt and tie at all times. Female drivers must follow an equivalent dress code but will not be required to wear a tie. This dress code must be followed at all times the vehicle is being used to undertake a booking. Jackets may be removed where weather conditions require it.
8. Vehicles should be under five years of age at first licence.

Private Hire Vehicle Identification Plate Exemption Conditions

These conditions relate to the grant of an exemption certificate for a private hire vehicle used for executive purposes only and are in addition to the private hire vehicle conditions previously issued (Appendix B of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy).

1) Interpretation

In these conditions:

“**the Act**” means Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

“**the council**” means East Hampshire District Council

“**Private Hire Vehicle (Executive)**” means a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to seat fewer than nine passengers, not being a Hackney Carriage or public service vehicle, which is provided for hire with a driver for the carrying of passengers, for executive use only, but these conditions do not:

- a) apply to a vehicle used for bringing passengers or goods within the district in pursuance of a contract for the hire of the vehicle made outside the district if the vehicle is not made available for hire within the district
- b) apply to a vehicle while it is being used in connection with a wedding or a funeral or a vehicle used wholly or mainly by a person carrying on the business of a funeral director, for the purpose of funerals
- c) apply so as to require the display of any plate, disc or notice in or on any private hire vehicle licensed by the Council during such period that such vehicle is used for carrying passengers for hire or reward on any other occasion specified by the Council in a notice given to the proprietor.

2) Conditions regulating the provision and display of Private Hire Vehicle (Executive) Identification Plate and Exemption Certificate

- a) prior to the issue of an exemption certificate, each vehicle must be individually assessed by an authorised council officer. Each application will be judged on its own merit.
- b) upon the vehicle being authorised for executive use, an exemption certificate will be issued on receipt of a fee which is non refundable.
- c) the identification plate to be provided by the Council pursuant to section 48(5) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 bearing the number of the licence granted in respect of the vehicle shall be kept in the vehicle along with the exemption certificate at all times and be made available for inspection at the request of an officer. The plate and certificate remain the property of the Council.

- d) in the event of loss or damage rendering such plate or certificate unserviceable the proprietor shall make, as soon as practicably possible and in any case within seven days, application for a replacement for which a fee is payable.
- e) on selling the vehicle, the previous owner must inform the council as soon as practicably possible and in any case within seven days, in writing, and provide details of the new owner. The exemption certificate must be returned to the Council along with the Private Hire Vehicle plate unless being sold to a driver/owner licensed by the Council. In this case, only the exemption certificate has to be returned.

3) Provisions regulating how Private Hire Vehicles (Executive) are to be furnished, provided and maintained.

The proprietor of a Private Hire Vehicle (Executive) shall:

- a) ensure that the vehicle is of a standard and quality expected for the purpose. Each individual vehicle must be assessed by an authorised council officer with regard to suitability as per condition 2(a)
- b) notify the council within 5 working days of any change in condition of the vehicle
- c) maintain the interior and exterior of the vehicle to the standard expected at all times
- d) display the window stickers provided in the front and rear windscreens, ensuring that that are clearly visible at all times.

4) Condition relating to the use of the Private Hire Vehicle (Executive)

The proprietor of a Private Hire Vehicle (Executive):

- a) shall not use the vehicle for any other purpose than for executive use (ie not for 'normal' airport journeys or daily private hire use)
- b) should the owner/operator choose to undertake normal daily private hire work then the exemption would be removed and the plate would have to be displayed on the vehicle as per the vehicle conditions. If the exemption is surrendered in this way the vehicle will not be granted another exemption certificate until a period of 12 months has elapsed from the date of surrender
- c) shall, upon non-compliance with condition 4(a) or any other regulations, Acts of Parliament, orders or byelaws, surrender the exemption certificate to the Council and display the Private Hire Vehicle plate as required under the Private Hire Vehicle Conditions.
- d) shall, upon any change of use of the vehicle, inform the Council on the same day when the change takes place.

5) Legislation

The Licence holder must observe and carry out the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and any order or regulation made thereunder or the requirements of any other Act of Parliament or orders, regulations or byelaws made thereunder relating to Private Hire Vehicles.

6) It should be noted that the granting of the exemption is a concession made by the Council to section 2(a) of the Private Hire Vehicle Conditions and as such, officers are not compelled to grant any exemptions.