

Newport City Council

LIMOUSINE CONDITIONS

The following set of conditions will be attached to all stretched limousines:

1. Limousines are permitted to be left-hand or right-hand drive.
2. The majority of stretched limousines are imported from the U.S.A and are left-hand drive. The Department for Transport has recommended that councils should not refuse to licence limousines simply because they have characteristics which contravene their existing policy, i.e. left-hand drive. Limousines with sideways facing seating will be permitted.
3. A main characteristic of stretched limousines is their sideways facing bench seats. In line with the Department for Transport's guidance the council will consider the suitability of limousines with sideways seating for licensing. The vehicle must have a seat belt available for every travelling passenger.
4. Limousines will not be required to display any council livery but will be required to display the council's private hire plate. The plate serves to distinguish private hire vehicles from ordinary saloon cars and hackney carriage vehicles and to make them clearly identifiable to the public. The distinctive appearance of stretched limousines means that they are unlikely to be confused with a hackney carriage or a private-use vehicle.
5. Limousines with heavily tinted glass in the rear offside/nearside windows will be considered for licensing. However, heavily tinted glass in the driver cockpit would remain prohibited in line with legal requirements. It is recognised that the privacy provided by tinted glass in the passenger compartment is a central characteristic of a limousine. Glass in the driver cockpit must satisfy the standards within the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 as amended.
6. Limousines will be required to hold a valid Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) Certificate or an IVA certificate. The SVA or IVA test comprises a visual examination of a vehicle and certifies its safety and roadworthiness.
7. The limousine must be fitted with tyres that meet the size and weight specification. Given the increased weight of the vehicle, tyres of the correct weight and size rating must be used at all times.
8. Seats in the driver's compartment shall not be used to carry passengers. This is to ensure that passengers are not carried in the front of the vehicle in order to improve driver and passenger safety.
9. In any advertisement publicising any limousine service, the operator must state that the vehicle is only licensed to carry up to a maximum of 8 passengers. This is order to inform customers of the maximum carrying capacity of the vehicle.
10. Alcoholic drinks provided in the vehicle shall be under the terms of an appropriate licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 which relates to the sale and supply of alcohol. In order to comply with alcohol licensing requirements and safeguard public safety bottles of alcohol shall be placed in a secure place and should be removed

when any passenger is under 18 years old. Any glassware in the vehicle must be made of either shatterproof glass or plastic.

11. The driver shall not play or permit the performance of any media that, given its age classification or content, is unsuitable for the age of the passengers in the vehicle. This is in order to safeguard child passengers from viewing unsuitable material.
12. If the limousine parks to provide some form of regulated entertainment for its passengers, a licence must be in place in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.
13. Any vehicle that has been constructed or adapted to seat more than eight passengers cannot be licensed as a private hire vehicle.
14. The individual nature of a limousine vehicle will give rise to issues that would not apply to conventional private hire vehicles and therefore it will be necessary to consider whether special conditions should be included on any licence. The licensing manager will determine any such additional special conditions. If the proprietor is not satisfied with the proposed conditions, the matter will be heard and determined by the licensing panel.

'PRESTIGE' VEHICLE CONDITIONS

15. Prestige vehicles that wish to be exempt from the requirements to be plated and display side stickers will have to comply with all private hire conditions other than conditions relating to the plate and side stickers (livery).
16. No cash work can be undertaken by the vehicle unless the vehicle is booked at least one hour before the start of the journey or the operator has a written contract with particular business or person.
17. No meter is permitted in the vehicle (unless integrated).
18. Vehicles must be under seven years old although older vehicles will be considered by the licensing manager to permit older vintage cars or unique cars to be granted a licence.
19. The vehicle must be of a standard of comfort and be equipped to a level equal to or above that of luxury model vehicles such as Mercedes Benz E or S Class, BMW 5 and 7 Series, Lexus GS or LS, Audi A6, A8, Range Rover, Jaguar XF, XJ, Tesla, Maserati Ghibli, Quattro Porte, VW Phantom, Volvo S/V90, etc. Higher specification executive-type saloon and MPV cars from other manufacturers may also be considered, e.g. Mercedes Vito.
20. An 'executive' window plate must be displayed at all times in the front windscreen of the vehicle.
21. No advertising is permitted on or in the vehicle at any time.
22. The driver of the vehicle must be appropriately dressed wearing a formal suit (jacket, trousers or skirt) and formal shoes. No casual wear shall be permitted to be worn by the driver.

23. The individual nature of a special event vehicle will give rise to issues that would not apply to conventional private hire vehicles and therefore it will be necessary to consider whether any special conditions should be included on a licence. The licensing manager will determine any such special conditions. If the proprietor is not satisfied with the proposed conditions, the matter will be heard and determined by the licensing panel.

Proprietors or operators found to be breaching the above conditions will be stripped of 'executive' status for period of 12 months by the licensing manager and the vehicle will be suspended until such time as the vehicle(s) complies with private hire vehicle conditions.

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