



Mayor's Air Quality Strategy

Taxi and Private Hire Age Limit - Consultation on Exemptions

In December 2010 the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy was published which contained a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing harmful emissions in London. The actions outlined in the strategy included initiatives focused on reducing harmful emissions from licensed taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs).

You can find a full copy of the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (MAQS) on the GLA website at: london.gov.uk/publication/mayors-air-quality-strategy.

The air quality initiatives for taxis and private hire vehicles included the following age limits and Euro standard requirements:

- From 1 January 2012 a 10 year rolling age limit will be introduced for private hire vehicles and a 15 year rolling age limit for taxis unless exempted
- From 1 April 2012, unless exempted, all new, or new to licensing, PHVs must, as a minimum, meet Euro 4 standards for emissions and be no older than 5 years and all new, or new to licensing, taxis must, as a minimum, meet Euro 5 standards for emissions

Age-Based Limit and Emissions Standards: Exemptions

A consultation on a limited number of exemptions from the age-based limits and related emissions standards has been conducted and following a full review of the responses to the consultation we are now able to confirm what exemptions will be allowed.

The table in Appendix A shows the full list of exemptions and the conditions that must be met before an exemption will be approved. These can be split into the following categories:

- Alternative fuel conversions (taxis and PHVs)
- Historic and classic/niche vehicles (taxis and PHVs)
- PHVs used for specialist needs transport
- PHVs covered by the Low Emission Zone (LEZ)
- Wheelchair accessible PHVs

In addition to the above other exemptions will be considered by TPH on a case by case basis under its general discretion to grant exemptions to vehicles from normal licensing requirements. These include the following:

- Disabled drivers (taxis and PHVs): where substantial adaptations have been made to accommodate their needs
- Specialist adaptations to PHVs: e.g. adaptations required to vehicles used for music touring or other specialist uses

All exemptions must be approved by Transport for London (TfL). More information about the conditions that must be met before an exemption will be approved is available in Appendix B and further details will be published on the TfL website at: tfl.gov.uk/tph.

The taxi and PHV initiatives contained in the MAQS have been implemented by making the appropriate changes to the taxi Conditions of Fitness (COF) and the prescribed requirements for PHVs. An updated copy of the COF and Private Hire Vehicles (London PHV Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 will be published on the TfL website at: tfl.gov.uk/tph.

Vehicle Age

The age of a taxi or PHV will normally be taken as the date on which the vehicle was first registered with the DVLA under the Vehicle Excise Registration Act 1994, although in exceptional circumstances an alternative date may be permitted.

New Applications and Renewals

The consultation proposed that applications and inspections for re-licensing or to renew a vehicle licence would need to take place within 3 months of the licence expiring. This has now been extended to 24 months as set out below.

A gap of up to 24 months between a licence expiring and the new licence commencing will be allowed in exceptional circumstances and where the delay was due to circumstances outside the vehicle owner's control, otherwise the licence application will be treated as a 'new' application rather than a 'renewal' application.

Taxi and PHV licences issued by other licensing authorities will not be taken into account when considering whether a vehicle can be licensed and any application to license a vehicle that has been previously licensed outside Greater London will be treated as a new application by TfL.

Contact Us

If you want to apply for an exemption, have any questions about the exemptions from the age-based limits and emissions standards, or are

uncertain as to whether your vehicle is eligible for an exemption then please contact us by:

Post:

Vehicle Age Limit Exemptions
TfL - Taxi and Private Hire Office
Palestra
4th floor (Yellow zone)
197 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8NJ

Email: TPH.Enquiries@tfl.gov.uk

Telephone: 0845 602 7000

Fax: 020 3054 3160

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation. The Report on the Consultation on Exemptions to the Age-Based Limits for taxis and PHVs will be published on the TfL website at tfl.gov.uk/tph.



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For previous Notices visit tfl.gov.uk/tph

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Appendix A – Age-based limits, emissions standards and exemptions

		Age-based limits and emissions standards as set out in the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (MAQs)			Exemptions				
		Implementation date	Age-based limit	Emissions Standard	Alternative fuel	Historic vehicle (6) and classic/niche (7)	Wheelchair-accessible vehicles (8)	Specialist needs transport (9)	Vehicle covered by LEZ requirements
			Maximum rolling age-based limit (2)	Minimum Emissions Standard (Euro Standard)					
Taxis	Licensed (1) before implementation date of 1 Jan 2012	01-Jan-12	15 years	Euro 3 (under current CoF)	If approved & converted before 1 Jan 2012, additional 5 years on 15-year rolling age limit (4)	Exemption criteria not relevant for taxis	Exemption criteria not relevant for taxis - all taxis are wheelchair-accessible as part of CoF	Exemption criteria not relevant for taxis	Not applicable
	Licensed (1) on or after 1 Jan 2012 and before 1 April 2012	01-Jan-12	15 years	Euro 3 (under current CoF)	Additional 5 years on the 15-year age rolling age limit, must meet Euro 5 (11)	Not applicable	Not applicable - all taxis are wheelchair-accessible as part of CoF	Not applicable	Not applicable
	Licensed (1) on or after 1 April 2012.	01-Apr-12	15 years (3)	Euro 5		Not applicable	Not applicable - all taxis are wheelchair-accessible as part of CoF	Not applicable	Not applicable
PHVs	Licensed (1) before implementation date of 1 Jan 2012	01-Jan-12	10 years	N/A	Additional 5 years on 10-year rolling age limit if conversion meets Euro 3 standard	Additional 5 years on 10-year rolling age limit (10)	Additional 5 years on 10-year rolling age limit (10)	Additional 5 years on 10-year rolling age limit (10)	Additional 5 years on 10-year rolling age limit (10)
	Licensed (1) on or after 1 January 2012 and before 1 April 2012	01-Jan-12	10 years	N/A	Additional 5 years on the 10-year rolling age limit, must meet Euro 5 (12)	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently an additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit (10)	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently an additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit (10)	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently an additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit (10)	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently an additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit (10)
	Licensed (1) on or after 1 April 2012.	01-Apr-12	5 years at first licensing, then 10 years subsequently	Euro 4		Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit;	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit; must be Euro 4 standard (10)	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently an additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit; must be Euro 4 at point of licensing (10)	Additional 5 years on 5-year age limit at first licensing; subsequently an additional 5 years on the 10-year age limit; must be Euro 4 at point of licensing

Notes for table			
1	Licensed here means first date of licence with TPH	7	Classic/niche vehicles will be determined on application to TPH using existing criteria. If they meet these criteria an exemption will be considered.
2	Age is from date of registration with DVLA. The age for the taxi or PHV will be as at date of annual re-licensing	8	Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are already identified as such at licensing
3	Note that all newly-manufactured taxis will be Euro 5 from January 2012	9	Operators will need to apply to TPH to be registered as providing Specialist Needs Transport (SNT)

Notes for table			
4	Approved as per Conditions of Fitness - would need to meet Euro 3, TPH will assess conversions	10	Certain classes of diesel vehicles will still need to meet LEZ emissions requirements - Euro 3 or Euro 4 for PM
5	To meet emissions standards of the EC directive on Euro 5	11	The conversion must have been done by the time of the annual inspection in the 15th year of the vehicle's life. Must be a conversion from diesel, with the conversion approved by TPH.
6	As per DVLA definition: manufactured before 1 Jan 1973	12	The conversion must have been done by the time of the annual inspection in the 10th year of the vehicle's life. Must be a conversion from diesel, with the conversion approved by TPH.

	Exemption Category	Conditions & Limitations	Period of exemption
Taxis	Alternative fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable alternative fuels are LPG, CNG and biomethane Taxis licensed before 1 January 2012 must meet Euro 3, taxis licensed after this date must meet Euro 5 All conversions to vehicles must be approved by TPH, in the case of taxis, this will be via approval process Conversions must be from diesel Taxis must be converted by the date of their annual inspection in their 15th year 	Additional 5 years on existing age limit
	Historic vehicle and classic/niche	Applies only to Asquith taxis licensed prior to 1 January 2012	Considered and granted on a case by case basis, additional 5 years on existing age limit and then reviewed after 5 years
PHVs	Alternative fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable alternative fuels are LPG, CNG and biomethane Conversions must be from diesel All conversions to vehicles must be approved by TPH ,for PHVs each conversion will require evidence that it meets Euro 5 PHVs must be converted by the date of their annual inspection in their 10th year 	Additional 5 years on existing age limit
	Historic vehicle and classic/niche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic vehicles are defined as per DVLA definition: manufactured before 1 Jan 1973 Niche vehicles: TPH will decide on application whether a vehicle meets this category. 	Considered and granted on a case by case basis, additional 5 years on existing age limit and then reviewed after 5 years
	Wheelchair-accessible vehicles	Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are already identified as such at licensing	Additional 5 years on existing age limit
	Specialist needs transport	Owners/drivers wishing to apply for SNT designation for their vehicle(s) will need to apply to TPH and supply appropriate evidence to support their application	Additional 5 years on existing age limit
	Vehicle covered by LEZ requirements	For details of the LEZ, see tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon . Affected vehicles would typically be certain vans or minibuses, which will be affected by the LEZ from 3/1/12.	Additional 5 years on existing age limit

Appendix B

Age-Based Limit Exemptions Guidance

All exemptions from the age-based limits must be approved by TfL and to apply for an exemption from the age-based limits for licensed taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) your vehicle must:

- Have a current taxi or PHV licence or be a new vehicle or new to licensing
- Meet the specific exemption criteria

From 1 January 2012 all vehicle adaptations and modifications for an exemption must be made before the vehicle reaches the maximum age limit (10 years for PHVs and 15 years for taxis). If a vehicle is older than the age limit then it will not be possible to apply for an exemption.

With the exception of historic/niche vehicles the exemptions will allow a vehicle to be licensed for up to an additional 5 years, extending the maximum age limit to 20 years for taxis and 15 years for PHVs. Historic/niche vehicles will normally be fully exempted from the age limits although in some cases the exemption may be limited to 5 years. Further information about the exemptions is below.

Alternative fuels

The main criteria regarding alternative fuel conversions are:

- Acceptable fuels for the exemption are Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Biomethane
- All conversions to vehicles must be approved by TfL and completed before the vehicle reaches the maximum age limit (10 years for PHVs and 15 years for taxis)
- Only vehicles converted from diesel to one of the three alternative fuels will be eligible – petrol conversions will not be eligible
- Conversions for taxis must be approved by the Vehicle Policy Manager. Prior approval must be sought before converting a taxi and approval will only be given for the installation of LPG or other fuel systems approved by the Vehicle Policy Manager.
- Evidence will need to be submitted for all PHVs converted that the vehicle meets the Euro 5 emissions standard

Historic and classic/niche vehicles

Exemptions for historic and classic/niche vehicles will be considered on a case by case basis. Anyone applying for this exemption will need to submit a full business case to TfL showing why:

- Their vehicles should be considered as historic or classic/niche vehicles
- Are essential to their business
- Why other vehicles could not be used

Specialist needs transport

This exemption can be applied for if you have licensed PHVs that are used to carry out a specialist transport service (e.g. for a local authority contract) and the vehicles have undergone substantial modifications in order to be able to carry out this service.

When applying for the exemption you will need to clearly set out:

- What your vehicles are used for
- Details of all adaptations or modifications
- Why other vehicles could not be used to provide the service

PHVs covered by the Low Emission Zone (LEZ)

PHVs which are in scope for the LEZ will be granted an exemption from the age-based limit.

Converted vehicles that have undergone a substantial conversion, such as those used for a specialist service or which are wheelchair accessible, may be covered by the LEZ and it is the responsibility of each vehicle owner to determine if their vehicle is covered by the LEZ and evidence of this must be provided by the vehicle owner when applying for the exemption.

From 3 January 2012, larger vans and minibuses will be brought into scope for the LEZ for the first time. More information about the LEZ is available on our website at tfl.gov.uk/lez.

Wheelchair accessible PHVs

PHVs that have been modified to carry passengers who use wheelchairs will be considered for exemptions. By wheelchair accessible we mean a vehicle which a passenger using a wheelchair can enter, exit and travel in safely and securely whilst always remaining in their wheelchair, for the entire journey.

Disabled Drivers

Disabled drivers who have had substantial adaptations made to their vehicle may be eligible for an exemption and for their vehicle to be licensed for an additional 5 years.

If you want to apply for this exemption you will need to submit evidence clearly showing what adaptations are required and why, this will normally be information from your specialist or GP supported by a Motability report. You will also need to submit evidence to show that all adaptations have been made by an approved company.

Further information about all of the exemptions will be published on the TfL website at tfl.gov.uk/tph.