



## THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1985

### THE INSPECTION OF TAXIS AND HIRE VEHICLES REGULATIONS 2000

*Approved by Tynwald*

*11th April 2000*

*Coming into operation*

*17th April 2000*

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Department of Transport by section 74(1) and (2) of, and paragraph 6D of Schedule 2 to, the Road Traffic Act 1985<sup>1</sup>, and of all other enabling powers, the following Regulations are hereby made: —

#### **Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Inspection of Taxis and Hire Vehicles Regulations 2000 and, subject to section 74(3) of the Act, shall come into operation on the 17th April 2000.

#### **Interpretation**

2. (1) In these Regulations —

"the Act" means the Road Traffic Act 1985;

"the 1916 Act" means the Local Government Consolidation Act 1916<sup>2</sup>;

"hackney carriage" means a hackney carriage within the meaning of the 1916 Act, not being a public service vehicle within the meaning of the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) Act 1964<sup>3</sup>;

"hire and drive carriage" has the same meaning as in the 1916 Act;

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<sup>1</sup>1985 c.23

<sup>2</sup>X p.57

<sup>3</sup>XIX p.1298

Price £1.65

"passenger car" means a standard motor vehicle or a very light motor vehicle which (in either case) is not -

- (a) steered by handlebars, or
- (b) a goods vehicle;

"registered" means registered under section 11 of the Licensing and Registration of Vehicles Act 1985<sup>4</sup> in accordance with regulations under section 13 of that Act;

"standard motor vehicle" means -

- (a) a vehicle in group B (cars etc. up to 3,500kg maximum gross weight), not being a vehicle in group B1 (cars etc. up to 550kg unladen weight), or
- (b) a vehicle in group L (electric vehicles) which would, if it were powered otherwise than by electricity, fall within paragraph (a);

"very light motor vehicle" means -

- (a) a vehicle in group B1 (cars etc. up to 550kg unladen weight) or group P (mopeds) having more than 2 wheels, or
- (b) a vehicle in group L (electric vehicles) which would, if it were powered otherwise than by electricity, fall within paragraph (a).

(2) References in paragraph (1) to a group (eg. "group B") are to a group of classes or descriptions of vehicles specified in Schedule 1 to the Driving Tests Regulations 1992<sup>5</sup>.

### **Exemption from requirement for certificate**

3. (1) This regulation applies to a passenger car which -
- (a) is a standard motor vehicle, and
  - (b) was manufactured not earlier than 36 months before the date of the application mentioned in paragraph (2).

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<sup>4</sup>1985 c.21

<sup>5</sup>GC 61/92

(2) Paragraph 6D(5) of Schedule 2 to the Act does not apply where, on an application to a local authority for a licence under section 288 of the 1916 Act for the use of a vehicle to which this regulation applies as a hire and drive carriage only, there is produced to the local authority –

- (a) a certificate of newness in respect of the vehicle; or
- (b) a note entered by the Department on the vehicle's registration book, or a statement in writing by the Department, that a certificate of newness was furnished to the Department in support of the application for registration of the vehicle.

(3) In this regulation –

"certificate of newness", in relation to a vehicle, means a form issued in the Island or the United Kingdom in respect of a vehicle by the manufacturer, or by the sole import concessionaire on behalf of the manufacturer, of the vehicle, giving particulars of the vehicle and containing a declaration that it is new;

"manufacturer", in relation to a vehicle, means –

- (a) the person who assembled the vehicle including the body, or
- (b) if there is no such person, the person who constructed the body of the vehicle.

#### **Prescribed requirements as to fitness and equipment of hackney carriages**

4. (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6D(2) of Schedule 2 to the Act, the prescribed requirements as to fitness and equipment of a hackney carriage are –

- (a) in the case of every hackney carriage –
  - (i) any requirements of the kind specified in paragraph (2) applicable to it; and
  - (ii) the requirements specified in Part 1 of Schedule 1;
- (b) in the case of a hackney carriage being a passenger car, the requirements specified in Part 2 of Schedule 1;
- (c) in the case of a hackney carriage (other than a hire and drive carriage) being a passenger car, the requirements specified in Part 3 of Schedule 1;

- (d) in the case of a hackney carriage which is steered by handlebars, the requirements specified in Part 4 of Schedule 1.
- (2) The requirements mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) are the requirements as to maintenance, construction and equipment specified in –
  - (a) the Road Vehicles (Maintenance and Use) Regulations 1998<sup>6</sup>;
  - (b) the Road Vehicles (Construction, Equipment and Weights) Regulations 1998<sup>7</sup>; and
  - (c) the Road Vehicles Lighting (Application) Regulations 1998<sup>8</sup>.
- (3) Where a hackney carriage has been adapted by the removal of passenger seats, it shall be treated as if it had not been so adapted for the purpose of determining the requirements applicable to it under any provision mentioned in this regulation.

#### **Fee for inspection**

5. The fees specified in Schedule 2 are prescribed for the purposes of paragraph 6D(2) of Schedule 2 to the Act.

#### **Transitional provision**

6. Without prejudice to regulation 3, paragraph 6D(5) of Schedule 2 to the Act does not apply where, on an application to a local authority for a licence under section 288 of the 1916 Act made within 12 months after the commencement of these Regulations, there is produced to the local authority a certificate issued under section 3(3) or (4) of the Public Service Vehicles (Inspection) Act 1928<sup>9</sup> within the 12 months before the date of the application that the vehicle in question complies with the requirements of the relevant regulations under section 3(1) of that Act.

#### **Revocation**

7. The regulations specified in Schedule 3 are revoked.

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<sup>6</sup>SD 345/98

<sup>7</sup>SD 346/98

<sup>8</sup>SD 348/98

<sup>9</sup>XII p.400

PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS AS TO FITNESS AND EQUIPMENT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES

PART 1

REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL HACKNEY CARRIAGES

1. (1) If the vehicle is registered, the registration mark assigned to the vehicle must be displayed on a plate affixed to the vehicle in accordance with regulations under section 13 of the Licensing and Registration of Vehicles Act 1985.
- (2) A speedometer, incorporating an odometer recording the distance in miles for which the vehicle has been driven, must be fitted and kept in correct working order.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) a speedometer shall not be treated as in correct working order unless it is found to be accurate to within 10 per cent. of the correct reading when the vehicle is tested as travelling at 30 miles per hour.
- (4) An effective exhaust and emission system must be maintained as fitted by, or as otherwise recommended by, the manufacturer, and it must be fitted if necessary with a shield or other suitable device to prevent any combustible liquids from the vehicle falling into contact with any part of the exhaust system.
- (5) The vehicle, including all fittings, equipment, bodywork, paintwork and any upholstery, must be well maintained and kept clean and in good working order.

PART 2

REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PASSENGER CARS

*Suitability for driving, loading and unloading in left-hand traffic*

2. The steering wheel and driver's seat must be on the offside of the vehicle.

*Doors and door fittings*

3. (1) Passengers' doors must be –
  - (a) capable of being opened, when unlocked, from inside and outside the vehicle, by a single movement of the handle or other device for opening the door; and
  - (b) incapable of being locked from outside unless, when so locked, the door is capable of being opened from inside the vehicle when stationary.
- (2) Every door (not being a power-operated door) must be either –
  - (a) fitted with double catches comprising a slam lock of the two-stage type, or
  - (b) linked to a device which –
    - (i) is operated by movement of the handle or other device for opening the door or, in the case of a handle or other device with a spring-return mechanism, by movement of both the door and the handle or other device, and

- (ii) informs the driver, when occupying the driver's seat, if the the door is not securely closed.

*Windows*

4. Every passenger door window must be capable of being opened easily by a passenger when seated.

*Wheelchairs*

5. Where the vehicle is capable of carrying one or more wheelchairs (whether in its own space or in a space made available by removal or tipping of a seat) –

- (a) there must be equipment in the vehicle for securing the wheelchair while holding its passenger so that –
  - (i) the wheelchair does not veer, roll or tilt to the detriment of the passenger's safety when the vehicle is in motion (whether on a level or an inclined road), and
  - (ii) the passenger does not face sideways;
- (b) equipment consisting of a ramp, hoist or lift must be carried in or fixed to the vehicle by which a passenger in the wheelchair may be safely loaded and unloaded; and
- (c) the equipment mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) must be maintained in good and serviceable working order.

*Spare wheel*

6. The vehicle must carry a spare wheel with tyre complete in good serviceable condition, an efficient device for the purpose of jacking up the vehicle and all necessary tools to affix such spare wheel to the vehicle.

PART 3

REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PASSENGER CARS  
(OTHER THAN HIRE AND DRIVE CARRIAGES)

*Suitability for driving, loading and unloading in left-hand traffic*

7. (1) Doors must be provided so that –
- (a) a passenger who is to sit or is seated beside the driver may enter and leave the vehicle by a nearside front door; and
  - (b) a passenger who is to sit or is seated behind the driver may enter and leave the vehicle by –
    - (i) a nearside rear door, and
    - (ii) either an offside rear door or a door at the back of the vehicle.
- (2) The requirements of sub-paragraph (1) shall not be regarded as being met if –
- (a) the design, construction or use of any such door, or

- (b) a seat, other equipment or any fitting of or in the vehicle,

is likely to prevent an adult able-bodied passenger, who is not carrying luggage, getting into or out of the vehicle unaided and without inconvenience.

*Requirements as regards seats*

8. (1) Suitable means must be provided to assist passengers (including elderly or disabled passengers) to rise from their seats.
- (2) Where an occasional seat is fitted –
- (a) it must be at least 40cm in width and the minimum distance from the back of the upholstery to the front edge of the seat must be at least 35.5cm;
- (b) it must be so arranged as to rise automatically, and not to obstruct a doorway, when not in use; and
- (c) if more than one, they must be symmetrically placed and at least 4cm apart.
- (3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), no passenger seat shall be fitted lengthwise and facing sideways.
- (4) In the case of a vehicle in respect of which a hackney carriage licence was in force immediately before the commencement of these Regulations –
- (a) sub-paragraph (3) does not apply; but
- (b) a passenger seat fitted lengthwise and facing sideways must be so fitted that no part of its back-rest is less than 135cm from the corresponding part of the back-rest of any seat facing it.

*Additional requirements as regards spare wheel*

9. A spare wheel for temporary use only shall not be regarded as complying with the requirements of paragraph 6.

*Floor covering*

10. The floor must be covered with non-slip material which can be easily cleaned.

*Luggage*

11. Provision must be made for the carrying of luggage of a volume equivalent to at least one item 50 cm x 38.1cm x 22.8cm for every passenger which the vehicle is licensed to carry.

*Fire appliances*

12. At least one appliance for extinguishing fire –
- (a) of a type specified in Part I of Schedule 4 to the Road Vehicles (Maintenance and Use) Regulations 1998;
- (b) clearly marked with the appropriate British Standards Institution specification mark; and
- (c) maintained in good and efficient working order;

must be carried in the vehicle in the accommodation area of the driver or front passenger.

#### PART 4

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES STEERED BY HANDLEBARS

##### *Springs*

13. Suitable and sufficient springs or other shock-absorbing suspension shall be fitted between each wheel and the frame of the vehicle.

##### *Steering*

14. The steering mechanism shall be so constructed or arranged that no overlock shall be possible, and the steering mechanism (including the wheel or wheels being steered) shall not in any circumstances foul any part of the vehicle.

##### *Fuel tanks, carburettors and exhaust and emission systems*

15. (1) Unless the supply of fuel to the carburettor or injection apparatus is controlled by an automatic control device, a cock must be provided –

(a) by means of which the supply of fuel to the carburettor or injection apparatus may be immediately cut off, and

(b) whose handle is visible and readily accessible at all times.

(2) A self-closing throttle must be fitted.

(3) The fuel filler cap must be capable of being securely fixed in position.

(4) The vent hole (if any) must –

(a) be protected from danger of penetration by fire, and

(b) prevent fuel being splashed over.

(5) All carburettors and fuel injection apparatus, and all apparatus associated with them, must be so placed that no fuel leaking from them may fall –

(a) upon any part or fitting which is capable of igniting it, or

(b) into any receptacle where it might accumulate.

##### *Insulation of electric leads*

16. All electric leads must be adequately insulated, of adequate capacity for the current carried and correctly secured.

##### *Locking of nuts*

17. The following parts –

(a) all moving parts, and

(b) all parts subject to severe vibration (including connections to a sidecar) connected by bolts or studs and nuts



must be fastened by –

- (i) lock nuts,
- (ii) nuts and efficient spring or lock nut washers,
- (iii) castellated nuts and split pins, or
- (iv) some other efficient device,

so as to prevent their working or coming loose.

*Transmission chains etc.*

18. (1) All transmission chains, belts, sprockets and pulleys must be maintained in good condition and the chains properly adjusted.

(2) Adequate guards shall be provided for all exposed chains, belts, pulleys, sprockets, revolving transmission shafts, wheels and other revolving, rotating or oscillating parts.

*Stands*

19. A properly designed and well constructed support or stand shall be fitted to any vehicle which will not otherwise retain a vertical position when left unattended.

*Pillion seat*

20. (1) Where a passenger is carried on a pillion seat, that seat must be securely fixed behind the driver's seat.

(2) Suitable footrests shall be provided for every pillion seat.

(3) Sub-paragraph (1) or (2) shall not be regarded as being complied with if the pillion seat or footrests are not suitable for the pillion passenger to be carried facing forwards.

Regulation 5.

SCHEDULE 2

INSPECTION FEES

<i>Description of vehicle to be inspected</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Passenger car which is a standard motor vehicle	£18
Any other vehicle	£13

Regulation 7.

SCHEDULE 3

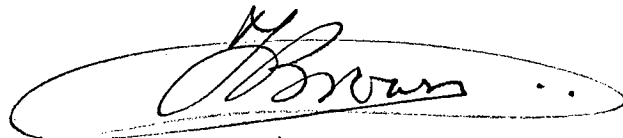
REGULATIONS REVOKED

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Title</i>
Made 4th May 1956	The Public Service Vehicles (Motor Cycles) (Inspection) Regulations 1956
Made 25th February 1970	The Hackney Motor Vehicles (Inspection and Condition of Fitness) Regulations 1970
Made 29th September 1971	The Hackney Motor Vehicles (Inspection) (Amendment) Regulations 1971
GC 6/77	The Public Service Vehicles (Motor Cycles) (Inspection) (Amendment) Regulations 1977
GC 250/79	The Hackney Motor Vehicles (Inspection and Condition of Fitness) (Amendment) Regulations 1979
GC 248/92	The Hackney Motor Vehicles (Inspection and Condition of Fitness) (Amendment) Regulations 1992
GC 250/92	The Public Service Vehicles (Motor Cycles) (Inspection) (Amendment) Regulations 1992

MADE

15<sup>th</sup> March

2000



Minister for Transport

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations supplement paragraph 6D of Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Act 1985 (inserted by section 12 of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 1996), which makes new provision for the annual inspection of hackney carriages to ensure their compliance with prescribed requirements as to fitness and equipment.

Certain new and nearly new vehicles for use as hire and drive carriages are excluded from the requirement for inspection (regulation 3). The requirements as to fitness and equipment of different classes of vehicle are prescribed (regulation 4 and Schedule 1). The fees for inspection (which are the same as those under the previous legislation) are prescribed (regulation 5 and Schedule 2). As a transitional measure, the issue of a hackney carriage licence without a certificate under paragraph 6D is permitted where a certificate under the previous legislation is in force (regulation 6).