

Suitable Taxi Vehicles Policy

In an attempt to ensure that a greater number of accessible vehicles are operating in West Lothian, the Council operates the following policy:

All new taxi licences, whether granted because of an increase in the number of taxis operating within West Lothian or by the reallocation of surrendered licences, will be issued for approved vehicles only which met the council's accessibility standard.

The approved vehicles are as follows (list revised July 2010)

- Peugeot E7 (short wheel base)
- Peugeot E7 (long body - wheelbase 3122mm body length 5135mm)
- Fiat Scudo (short and long wheelbase)
- Fiat Scudo Panel/Window Van (wheelbase 3000mm and 3122mm body length 4805mm and 5135mm)
- Fiat Scudo Panel/Window Van (manufactured before 2007 registration date)
- Fiat TW200 (short or long wheel base model only)
- Fiat Ducato 3000mm and 3450mm wheelbase panel van/window van
- Citroen Dispatch (short and long wheelbase 3000mm and 3122mm) (body length 4805mm and 5135mm)
- Citroen Dispatch Panel/Window Van (manufactured before 2007 registration date)
- Citroen Relay 3000mm and 3450 wheelbase panel van/window van
- Peugeot Expert MK 3 (short and long body) (wheelbase 3000mm and 3122 mm body length 4805mm and 5135mm)
- Peugeot Expert Classic Panel/Window Van MK2 (manufactured before 2007 registration date)
- Ford Transit (short wheel base model only)
- Vauxhall Movano and Vauxhall Vivaro (short wheel base model only)
- Volkswagen Transporter and Volkswagen Caravelle (short wheel base model only)
- Mercedes M8 (medium wheel base model only)
- Mercedes Vito 4748mm wheelbase 2148cc 116hp
- LTI TX2 M5, LTI TX2 A5, LTI TX4 M5 and LTI TX4 A5
- Renault Traffic (short wheel base model only)

The accessibility standard requires that all vehicles must have the following features installed to the satisfaction of the Cab Inspector –

- side loading access (for safety reasons all side loading vehicles must have an illuminated “doors opening” sign)
- wheelchair access by means of suitable ramps
- hi-visibility interior features (must be permanent and fixed rather than seat covers)
- interior grab rails
- a step (must be retractable)
- a loop system for the hard of hearing
- auto door locks which operate when the vehicle is moving

For the avoidance of doubt in order to provide sufficient seating (i.e. either 5 or 6 passenger seats) all taxis must be fitted with a bulkhead and tip up seats. All taxis must also meet the Condition of Fitness contained in Schedules A&B of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing Scheme Conditions.

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