

Extracts From DfT Guidance: Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance for Licensing Authorities in England (November 2023)

6. Driver Licensing

6.1 Duration of Driver Licences

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (as amended), the Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998 and the Plymouth City Council Act 1975 set a standard length of 3 years for taxi and private hire vehicle driver licences. Any shorter duration licence should only be issued when the licensing authority thinks it is appropriate in the specific circumstances of the case. For example, where the licence holder's leave to remain in the UK is time-limited, the licensee has requested a shorter duration or the licence is only required to meet a short-term demand. Taxi and private hire vehicle licences should not be issued on a 'probationary' basis.

6.2 Fit and Proper Test

The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards sets out the approach licensing authorities should take in respect to the fit and proper test. However, in addition to those checks provided in the statutory standards, as a minimum, the department would expect all applicants to undergo an assessment of their medical fitness.

.....

6.6 Medical and Vision Assessment

There is general recognition that it is appropriate for taxi and private hire vehicle drivers to have more stringent medical standards than those applicable to normal car drivers because:

- they carry members of the general public who have expectations of a safe journey
- they are on the road for longer hours than most car drivers
- they may have to assist disabled passengers and handle luggage

Licensing authorities should apply the Group 2 medical required for an entitlement to drive lorries (category C) and for buses (category D).

All initial category C and D licence applications require a medical assessment by a registered medical practitioner - recorded on the D4 form, this does not need to be the applicant's GP.

.....

Though it is not a requirement, the DVLA recommends that drivers who submit a medical report with an application or renewal for a category C and D licence should obtain this from a doctor with access to their full medical records. When conducting medical investigations, the DVLA will write to the driver's GP or consultant if further medical information is required; licensing authorities should do the same.

It is the responsibility of licensing authorities to assess the medical information they receive and decide whether a taxi or private hire vehicle licence should be issued. It is not the responsibility of the medical professional that provides the information to do this. Licensing authorities should seek the same information to inform their decision as required by the DVLA for category C and D licences. It is therefore suggested that DVLA's medical examination report (D4) is used as a template for Licensing Authorities to gather relevant information.

Detailed guidance on assessing medical fitness to drive is available in DVLA's [Assessing fitness to drive – a guide for medical professionals](#).