

Extracts from the Byelaws and Resolutions of the Council

made with respect to hackney carriages (taxis) in the Borough of Eastbourne (i.e. paragraph numbers relate to the 1970 Byelaws as amended)



Provisions regulating the manner in which the number of each hackney carriage, corresponding with the number of its licence, shall be displayed.

1. Every proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:-
 - a. cause the number of the licence granted to him in respect of the carriage to be displayed:-
 - (i) inside the carriage in such a position as to be clearly legible by the hirer throughout the hiring; and
 - (ii) outside the carriage by securely fixing at the rear of the carriage in a position above the rear bumper and to the off-side of the centre line of the vehicle, the authorised hackney carriage plate issued to him by the Council;
 - b. not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any such number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire;
 - c. not cause or permit the vehicle to ply for hire with any such plate so defaced that any figure or material particular is illegible.

Provisions regulating how hackney carriages are to be furnished or provided.

2. Every proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:-
 - a. provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;
 - b. cause the roof or covering to be kept water-tight;
 - c. provide any necessary windows and means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side;
 - d. cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered;
 - e. cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering;
 - f. cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
 - g. provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage;

- h. provide an efficient fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use;
 - i. provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such a carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver.
3. Every proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the carriage to be provided with a taximeter. The taximeter shall be so constructed, attached, and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:-
- (i) the machinery of the taximeter shall be brought into action by moving a lever or other device;
 - (ii) until the machinery of the taximeter is brought into action no fare shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (iii) when the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in figures clearly legible and free from ambiguity a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by distance in pursuance of the byelaw in that behalf;
 - (iv) the word "FARE" shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon;
 - (v) the taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof may be seen by any person conveyed in the carriage and for that purpose suitable means of illumination shall be provided during any period of hiring;
 - (vi) the taximeter and all fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.

Provisions regulating the conduct of the proprietors and drivers of hackney carriages plying within the district in their several employments, and determining whether such drivers shall wear any and what badges.

4. Every driver of a hackney carriage provided with a taximeter shall:-
- a. as soon as the carriage is hired by distance and before commencing the journey, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the lever or other device with which the taximeter is fitted;
 - b. cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of the hiring which is during the hours of darkness as defined in Section 1 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1927, and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.

5. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter with which the carriage is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto.
6. Every driver of a hackney carriage for which stands are fixed by any byelaws in that behalf shall, when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired:
 - a. proceed with reasonable speed to, and station the carriage on, one of such stands;
 - b. if a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand;
 - c. on arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face in the same direction;
 - d. from time to time when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward, cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.
7. Every proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who shall have agreed or shall have been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place, shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at such time and place.
8. If a badge has been provided by the Council and delivered to the driver of a hackney carriage, either with the licence granted to him by the Council or afterwards, he shall, when standing, plying or driving for hire, wear that badge in such a position and manner as to be plainly and distinctly visible.
9. Every driver of a hackney carriage so constructed as to carry luggage shall when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage:-
 - a. convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
 - b. afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading;
 - c. afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any house, station, or place at which he may take up or set down such person.
10. Every proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who shall knowingly convey in the carriage the dead body of a person shall, immediately thereafter, notify the fact to the Council.
11. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the current tariff. The rate of fare being calculated by distance, unless the hirer expresses at the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time. Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare

greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for any extra charges authorised, by which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.

12. (1) Every proprietor of a hackney carriage plying for hire for which any fares are fixed by any byelaw in that behalf shall:-
 - a. cause a statement of such fares to be painted or marked on the side of the carriage, or on a plate affixed thereto, in clearly distinguishable letters and figures;
 - b. renew such letters and figures as often as is necessary to keep them clearly visible.
- (2) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

Provisions securing the safe custody and re-delivery of any property accidentally left in hackney carriages, and fixing charges to be made in respect thereof.

13. Every proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, immediately after the termination of any hiring, carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.
14. Every proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him:-
 - (i) carry it within twenty four hours, if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, to the office of the Council, and leave it in the custody of the officer in charge of the office on his giving a receipt for it;
 - (ii) be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be re-delivered an amount equal to one shilling in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to the office of the Council, whichever be the greater) but not more than five pounds.
15. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding 100 pounds and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

1st May 1989

jb/standards/hc byelaws - Reprinted 22nd July 1999