

Clean Air Zone – Change of Licence Conditions for Licensed Private Hire Vehicles and Hackney Carriages

Southampton City Council is required to reduce levels of pollution in the city as quickly as possible and has therefore been required by central government to implement changes that will reduce emissions and improve air quality. The reason for this is due to the growing evidence that poor air quality is responsible for a range of health issues including cancer, respiratory and heart illnesses.

Southampton have identified that road transport is the most significant contributor to poor air quality in the city and therefore action to improve emissions from road vehicles would be a quick and effective way to meet clean air targets.

One of the changes considered was a charging Clean Air Zone that would have applied to taxis and private hire vehicles using the city that did not meet the latest Euro emission standards. In January this was rejected by the Council in favour of package of alternative measures including upgrading and retrofitting city buses to reduce their emissions, introducing opportunities to consolidate freight to reduce HGV trips in the city and promoting sustainable and active travel in the city.

With regards to the taxi and private hire fleet in Southampton, The Council proposed to ensure we had a clean air compliant fleet by the 1st January 2023 and that the uptake of low emission, hybrid vehicles was incentivised through the ongoing offer of grants.

This effectively means that the older euro 5 emission standard diesel vehicles will be phased out during 2022. Additionally from 2020 no new vehicle that is euro 5 diesel emission standard will be issued a licence and you will not be able to change a vehicle to a euro 5 emission standard diesel. Typically, diesel vehicles manufactured after 1st September 2015 should be euro 6 compliant but it is recommended that owners of such vehicles should check with the manufacturer.

The additional conditions proposed to be added to licences are:

- 3.5. No diesel vehicle with an emissions standard of level 5 (Euro 5) or lower will be granted a licence on or after 1st January 2020 other than by way of licence renewal unless the vehicle has been converted with approved CVRAS technology. See 3.5.2.
- 3.5.1 No diesel vehicle with an emissions standard of level 5 (Euro 5) or lower will be licensed or relicensed by way of renewal on or after 1st January 2022 unless the vehicle has been converted with approved CVRAS technology. See 3.5.2.
- 3.5.2 Any vehicle fitted with approved Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS) technology (e.g. a CVRAS LPG conversion) may be exempt from condition 3.5 and 3.5.1 subject to the vehicle meeting all other relevant conditions and on production of approved certification.

To support the trade in meeting these requirements, grants will be available to

upgrade from a non-compliant vehicle to a hybrid, plug-in hybrid or full electric vehicle. Grants will also be available to upgrade wheel chair accessible or vehicles that can carry 5-8 passengers from non-compliant to euro 5 or 6 petrol and euro 6 diesel. Details can be found here:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/environmental-issues/pollution/air-quality/concessions/>

The council are also currently planning to offer a service to demonstrate the benefits of operating an electric vehicle. This will be done by offering operators/drivers an assessment service and opportunity to trial EV's for free. This will be promoted in the summer and details will be published in the coming months on SCC webpages.

As part of this consultation process the Council is inviting stakeholders and other interested parties to make known their views by emailing:

licensing.consultations@southampton.gov.uk

Or writing to:

Licensing Consultations
Southampton & Eastleigh Licensing Partnership
PO Box 1767
Southampton
SO18 9LA

The consultation will last for eight weeks, commencing on Monday 29th April, finishing at midnight on Sunday 23rd June 2019. Those taking part in the consultation will be expected to provide their name, address and/or email address. However, they may choose to provide further personal data to illustrate or support their views. The personal data provided might include an address or area they live in, place of work, occupation, medical conditions. The original emails will be retained in line with the Council's retention policy. Further information about how the Council handles your data can be found in the Council's Privacy Notice at:

www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/privacy-cookies/privacy-policy.aspx

Once the consultation process is complete the comments made along with the name of the person making each comment will be made available to Councillors and published via the Council's website. The legal basis for using personal data in this way is because it is necessary for activities that support or promote democratic engagement. This information will remain available on the Council website. If you submit a comment as part of the consultation process and you would not like your name or any part of your comments published please make this clear in your email or letter.

Russell Hawkins
Senior Licensing Officer
26th April 2019