



Private hire driver applicants: important update on topographical assessment requirements

As part of our work to improve standards and safety within the private hire industry, we have introduced a series of changes to Transport for London's (TfL's) topographical assessment requirements.

A comprehensive audit of all accredited topographical assessment centres identified serious issues with the way testing was being conducted at a number of centres. As a result, 21 centres had their accreditation suspended and candidates that had obtained a topographical certificate through one of those centres had to re-sit the test with TfL.

To date, the TfL run topographical assessment has been taken by over 2,500 people – including applicants who had previously been assessed at a suspended centre - with an overall pass rate of 36 per cent.

In September 2016, as part of the transition to bring all assessments in-house, we withdrew accreditation for all previously accredited centres. TfL staff now conduct all topographical assessments directly across eight different sites.

As part of the transitional arrangements, we continued to accept topographical certificates obtained from accredited centres that were not suspended, where those certificates were issued before 26 September 2016, to allow time for candidates to complete their driver applications.

However, for applications received from 6 February 2017 we will no longer accept certificates for topographical assessments unless those certificates have been issued by TfL.

This is the latest step in our progress towards our commitment to introduce an enhanced, TfL designed and delivered driver skills assessment for all private hire

drivers by summer 2017. Further guidance on the changes to our licence application requirements will be issued in the coming months.

To book a TfL topographical assessment please visit: www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/taxis-and-private-hire/licensing.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Chapman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen Chapman
General Manager
London Taxi and Private Hire

25 January 2017

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