DVLA Group 2 Medical Standards
Changes in standard of Visual Acuity

Earlier this year the DVLA revised the visual acuity standard for holders of Group 2 licences.

The new standard is as follows:

- A visual acuity, using corrective lenses if necessary, of at least 6/7.5 in the better eye and at least 6/12 in the other eye. The uncorrected visual acuity in each eye must be at least 3/60.

- Where glasses are worn to meet the minimum standards, they should have a corrective power of less than or equal to +8 dioptres.

- It is also necessary for all drivers of Group 2 vehicles to be able to meet the prescribed and relevant Group 1 visual acuity requirements.

In assessing whether an applicant for a taxi or PHV driver’s licence is medically fit, TfL has regard to the medical standard that would apply in relation to a DVLA Group 2 licence. Therefore any applicant applying for a taxi or PHV driver’s licence after 31 October 2012 will be required to meet the new Group 2 standard.

Drivers who were originally licensed under lower standards are allowed to retain these entitlements under ‘grandfather rights’. The standard applied is determined by the date a PHV driver was first licensed or when a taxi driver was accepted onto the Knowledge of London. Retaining this entitlement is dependent on:

- the driver remaining continuously licensed since he or she was first licensed;

- there being no significant deterioration in any other aspects of the driver’s vision;

- the driver not having been involved in an accident in the preceding 10 years, in which their eyesight might have been a factor; and

- the driver meeting all of the current Group 1 acuity standards.
The Group 2 standards are set out in full in the DVLA publication ‘At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive’ that can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/dvla.

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For previous TPH Notices visit tfl.gov.uk/tph

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