



Coronavirus – update 13 (Vehicle Licensing)

This Notice provides an update on taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing in London during the Coronavirus pandemic, further to [TPH Notice 17/20](#).

In March 2020, to ensure the safety and welfare of our staff and taxi PHV licensees, we temporarily closed all six of our vehicle licensing inspection centres, with one reopening a week later to deal with urgent vehicle inspections (see [TPH Notice 05/20](#)). By 25 August 2020, all six vehicle inspection centres were reopened with appropriate safety measures in place including: social distancing markers, hand sanitiser stations, personal protective equipment for staff and limits on contact between staff and customers who we asked to wear face coverings.

As a result of these temporary closures, there is now additional demand on our vehicle inspection services.

We have significantly increased our capacity to deal with this extra demand but are still unable to fully accommodate the current volume of requested inspections while maintaining the necessary safety and social distancing controls.

We are therefore making some temporary and immediate changes at our vehicle inspection centres. With effect from Wednesday 11 November 2020, we will be prioritising inspections for those vehicles that could not be inspected earlier this year, owing to the temporary closure of our inspection centres, and for which there may have been no inspection for up to 18 months.

Vehicles that were licensed for a further 6 months earlier this year, in response to the temporary closures of the inspection centres, are required to undertake a vehicle inspection as part of a licence renewal and before the expiry of their current licence,

in order to remain licensed. Vehicle licensees can book their inspection from 28 days before the expiry of the current licence.

We are also permitting those vehicles that have a licence expiry date between 11 November 2020 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive), where the licence was originally granted in November or December 2019, to remain licensed for a period of six months without an inspection being conducted.

What this means for vehicle licensees who wish to renew their licence:

- Any licensee whose PHV was issued with a 6-month vehicle licence earlier this year and who wishes to renew their licence will need to undertake a vehicle licensing inspection before the expiry of the current licence.
- Any licensee whose taxi was the subject of a letter earlier this year, confirming it would remain licensed for a further 6 months, and who wishes to renew their licence will need to undertake a vehicle licensing inspection before the current licence expires.
- All other PHV and taxi licences, that were issued for 12 months and are due to expire from 11 November to 31 December 2020 (inclusive), will remain licensed for a further 6 months and a vehicle inspection is **not** required at this time. We will be contacting these licensees to confirm arrangements and provide the new vehicle licence expiry dates. Licensees will not need to attend an inspection site for a new taxi plate or new PHV discs.

For the avoidance of doubt, all vehicles that will remain licensed for a further 6 months as a result of these arrangements will be required to undertake an inspection as part of any licence renewal.

If a vehicle has recently undergone an inspection and failed, it will not be allowed to remain licensed until the failure has been remedied and a retest carried out. You are required to booking a retest as normal.

No vehicle will remain licensed beyond its maximum age limit as part of these arrangements.

MOTs

It remains the responsibility of vehicle licensees to ensure the roadworthiness of their vehicle(s) and to ensure that vehicles continue to meet all regulatory requirements at all times.

It remains a condition of vehicle licensing that a taxi or a private hire vehicle undertakes two MOT inspections per year. This will continue to be monitored as part of our compliance activities.

Vehicles that are presented for licensing will be required to meet all applicable requirements. This includes the production of a valid MOT certificate at their next inspection.

Licensees should ensure their vehicle continues to comply with the criteria in the [TfL Taxi and Private Hire Inspection Manual](#) at all times.

To summarise:

- If your PH vehicle licence expired earlier in 2020 and it was relicensed by TfL for a six-month period (when the inspection centres were temporarily closed) – in order to renew your licence, you will need to ensure it is booked in for a vehicle licensing inspection in the normal way before the expiry date of the current six-month licence;
- If your taxi vehicle licence was due to expire earlier in 2020 and you received a letter from TfL saying that it would remain licensed for a further six months (owing to the temporary closure of the inspection centres) – in order to renew your licence you will need to ensure it is booked in for a vehicle licensing inspection in the normal way before the expiry date in the letter from TfL;

- If your taxi or PH licence is due to expire between 11 November 2020 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive) and the licence was granted between 12 November 2019 and 1 January 2020 (inclusive), you do **not** need a vehicle inspection at this time. We will write to you to confirm the relevant arrangements and in the meantime you can check the status of your PH vehicle on the [TfL Licence Checker](#); and
- Taxis and PHVs are still required to undertake two MOTs per year.

NSL telephone lines

We understand that it remains difficult to contact our vehicle licensing service provider, NSL, by telephone at this time due to the additional demand. Please bear with us as we continue to work with NSL to improve the level of service offered and please make use of alternative channels such as the online booking portal, which allows you to book an appointment 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

To use this service please visit our [customer account page](#).

Please stay safe and well during these difficult times and refer to [previous Notices](#) for helpful information on how to seek financial or health and wellbeing support.

Graham Robinson

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Taxi and Private Hire
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For previous Notices and additional licensing information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/tph