



Guidelines for Driver Safety Partition Screens in Private Hire Vehicles

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The installation of driver safety partition screens in vehicles used for private hire purposes is supported by Transport for London (TfL) for the purposes of improving the safety of private hire drivers and reducing the threat of attack from passengers. However TfL also recognises that in fitting and using such devices the safety of drivers and passengers is vital.
- 1.2 All newly manufactured vehicles have achieved European Whole Vehicle Type Approval following comprehensive safety testing. Changing or adding to the interior of the vehicle can alter the 'type approval' of the vehicle and also have consequences as to what might happen inside the vehicle in the event of a collision.
- 1.3 The purpose of these guidelines is to provide private hire vehicle owners, drivers and operators with guidance as to TfL's requirements in relation to the use of driver safety partition screens.
- 1.4 These guidelines apply to all driver safety partition screens which are installed after the original manufacture of the vehicle.

2. General requirements

- 2.1 Due to the wide and diverse variety of vehicles licensed in London and different types of driver safety partition screens available it is not possible for TfL to offer specific purchase or installation advice in respect of these devices.
- 2.2 Whether a driver safety partition screen should be installed is a matter for vehicle owners, drivers and/or operators to consider. In making this decision, TfL considers that a number of matters should be considered including, but not limited to, the following.
 - i. Ensuring that all relevant safety, UK and European Community (EC) legislation is complied with.
 - ii. Ensuring that this guidance is complied with.
 - iii. Consideration of health and safety responsibilities and personal liability to employees, hirers and passengers.
 - iv. Informing insurers of the intention to fit such a device.

3. Specific Requirements

3.1 If a driver safety partition screen is installed in a vehicle being used for private hire purposes, TfL requires the following specific requirements to be satisfied.

- i. The installation and/or design of the device must not adversely influence or interfere in any way with vehicle type approval.
- ii. Installation and maintenance of the driver safety partition screen should be in full accordance with the manufacturer's specification and recommendations.
- iii. The device installed should not be significantly changed or modified from the original manufactured design. In cases where it is necessary to modify the original design of the device (for example, to facilitate installation of the device in the vehicle), assurances should be sought from the supplier/installer that the modification does not raise any concerns in relation to safety of the device and complies with the relevant UK and/or EC safety legislation.
- iv. Devices should remain clear and be free of scratches, clouding or stickers which would impede the drivers or passengers' visibility.
- v. Devices should not impede entry or egress or present a trip hazard to passengers using the vehicle.

4. Compliance

4.1 Private hire vehicle owners, drivers and operators should seek to fully comply with these guidelines.

4.3 If during the annual licensing inspection (or during a compliance inspection) of the vehicle, it is found that these guidelines have not been complied with the vehicle may not be licensed or an existing licence may be suspended.

4.4 The Driver Safety Partition Screen inspection criteria in Section 13 of the Vehicle Licensing Inspection Manual will apply.

