

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Licensing Committee

DATE: 02 December 2009

DIRECTOR: Stewart Carruth, Corporate Governance

TITLE OF REPORT: Procedure for Approval of Taximeter Types

REPORT NUMBER: CG-12-092

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To put in place a procedure for inspecting and approving types of meters suitable for use in taxis and private hire cars.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- (1) approves the procedure for submitting a request for meter approval;
- (2) approves the proposed fee; and
- (3) grants delegated powers to officers to approve meter types where the application is accompanied by the correct documentation and the Taxi Inspector is satisfied as to the accuracy of the meter after inspection.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no negative financial implications. It is proposed to introduce a fee of £50 to cover the cost involved in processing the application.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This is a procedure to improve efficiency within the Licensing Team and has no community impact.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. REPORT

6.1 Background

The Licensing Committee adopted a policy in 1999 whereby all meters fitted to taxi and private hire cars have to be of the time locked / calendar type. Condition 20 of a taxi operator's licence and 18 of a private hire car licence state that "The holder of a licence shall....only use a taximeter which has been stamped or sealed by the Licensing Authority **after testing and approval** as to distance and time in accordance with the approved taxi fares and charges.....". The approval

of meter types is designed to ensure that they record the distance / time correctly in accordance with the approved taxi fares and charges. However it is unclear as to whether individual meter types must specifically be approved by the Licensing Committee or if this can be done by way of delegated powers. This report seeks to clarify the situation.

At present, examination of meters is free of charge and undertaken on an ad hoc basis, when there is time between other activities.

6.2 Definition

In terms of The Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006, a taximeter is defined as “a device that works together with a signal generator to make a measuring instrument, with the device measuring duration, calculating distance on the basis of a signal delivered by the distance signal generator; and calculating and displaying the fare to be paid for a trip on the basis of the calculated distance or the measured duration of the trip, or both”.

6.3 Legislative Requirements

The Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006, which came into force in 2006 implements Directive 2004/22/EC of the European Parliament on measuring instruments in relation to taximeters. It is an offence under Regulation 4(2) to place on the market, and put into use, a taximeter that does not comply with the regulations and which has not been authorised by a notified body (notified bodies are those designated by the Secretary of State as persons / organisations that meet the notified body criteria). The purpose of the Directive in relation to taximeters is to control them in order to protect against fraud or short measure.

Where, in the opinion of a notified body, a taximeter meets the essential requirements it shall be issued with a certificate or notification and will have affixed to it the CE marking, the M marking and the identification number of the notified body which carried out the conformity assessment procedure.

6.4 Procedure for Approval

When a request is made for approval of a taximeter, an application form (Appendix 1) must be completed and submitted with the appropriate fee, which it is proposed should be set at £50. An appointment will be made for the meter to be inspected by the Taxi Inspector. The Inspector will check: -

- a) the documentation provided;
- b) that the relevant markings are on the meter and
- c) the date and time on the meter.

If all is in order the Inspector would then take the vehicle on a road test to check the tariff is recording correctly. Once this is done, an approval form (Appendix 2) would be completed with a recommendation to either approve /not approve the meter type. If the meter complies then approval can be granted by delegated powers. Any request for approval of a meter that does not comply with the above will be placed on the agenda for the next appropriate meeting of the Licensing Committee.

6.5 Consultation

The report was placed before the Taxi Consultation Group for consideration at its meeting on 16 November 2009. There was no adverse comment.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Licensing Committee minute 11 October 1999
Licensing Committee minute 15 November 1999
The Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006 (SI no 2304)

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF A TAXIMETER

Please complete **either Question 1 or 2** and all other questions

Q1. To be completed if the applicant is a Company or Partnership	
a. Full name of company/partnership	
b. Address of principal or registered office	
c. Telephone number Mobile number	
d. E-mail address	
Q2. To be completed if the applicant is an individual	
a. Full name	
b. Home address	
c. Telephone number Mobile number	
d. E-mail address	
Q3. Particulars of taximeter to be Approved	
a. Make	
b. Model	
c. Manufacturer	
Q4. a. Does the meter have affixed to it the CE and M markings and the number of the notified body which undertook the conformity testing?	
Q5. Can the meter be programmed to incorporate the tariffs and surcharges laid down by Aberdeen City Council?	

I declare that the particulars given by me on this form are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: _____

Signature of applicant or agent: _____

Agent's address: _____

Position of applicant in company/partnership if not otherwise stated:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

Fee Paid

Receipt Number:

NB: Any person who in connection with the making of this application makes any statement that he/she knows to be false or recklessly makes any statement that is false in a material particular, may be guilty of an offence.

For assistance in completing the form please telephone the Taxi Inspection Centre on (01224) 489300

When completed this form should be returned to Aberdeen City Council, Taxi Inspection Centre, 38 Powis Terrace, Aberdeen, AB25 3RF with the appropriate fee. Cheques should be made payable to "Aberdeen City Council"

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

Aberdeen City Council (the Data Controller) will process the information on this form for the purpose of granting or refusing an application. The information will be disclosed to Grampian Police. The information will also be published as part of the Licensing Committee Agenda and Minutes and held on a public register, all of which will be available to members of the public.

G:\Apps\Taxis\TaximeterApplicationForm.doc

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

METER TO BE APPROVED FOR USE IN TAXI / PRIVATE HIRE CARS

APPROVAL FORM

METER

Make :	
Model :	
Manufacturer:	

Checklist for Vehicle Examiner :

CE marking affixed to meter	
M marking affixed to meter	
Notified Body identification no. affixed to meter	
Relevant certification document produced (please retain copy)	

Name of Examiner

Date of road test

Meter: Approved/Not Approved (please delete as appropriate)