



Taxi Licensing: Introduction of mid-year safety inspections

Background

1. The requirement for London taxis to undergo a mid-year safety inspection is set out in article 14(o) of the London Cab Order 1934 (as amended by the London Cab Order 2007).
2. All vehicles licensed from **2 April 2007** onwards will be required to undergo a mid-year safety inspection and this Notice is to confirm the arrangements that are to be introduced with immediate effect.
3. Licensees will receive a letter from SGS informing them when their vehicle is approaching the time for its mid-year inspection. Amongst other things, this letter will:
 - confirm that the vehicle should be presented for its inspection within a period of 30 days before, or thirty days after the six month anniversary of its licence (at a time and SGS inspection centre confirmed by the licensee)
 - provide details about how to arrange an appointment
 - provide details of the inspection to help licensees pass first time; and
 - give advice about what to do in the event of a pass or fail.

Scope of the mid-year inspection

4. Annex A attached to this Notice, sets out in detail the scope of the mid-year inspection and how the inspection is to be carried out.
5. Whilst the scope of the mid-year inspection comprises 5 distinct stages, it is proposed to introduce the new arrangements incrementally. Up until April 2008, vehicles presented for their mid-year inspection will **not**, as a matter of routine, be subject to Stage 4 (which is the ramp inspection component). During this initial start up period, however, SGS will be requested to randomly sample 10% of mid-year inspections for the ramp component.
6. From April 2008, all vehicles presented for mid-year inspections will be subjected to the full scope of the inspection as set out in Annex A.

Further information about this Notice

7. Both the PCO and SGS are keen to ensure the successful introduction of the mid-year inspection. If you are a vehicle owner or vehicle presenter who might

be directly affected during the transitional period or if you require further information about this Notice, you can contact us on the following contact numbers:

Taxi Delivery and Contract Management Team 020 7126 1638

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Matthews', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Matthews
Head of Projects and Developments

22 August 2007

Annex A

TAXI LICENSING: MID-YEAR INSPECTION ROUTINE

General principles

The vehicle is to be tested as presented on the day.

This routine is to be used as specified in Section O of the Taxi Inspection manual / PCO formal notices / PCO written updates.

During the test no dismantling of components will take place.

There will be periodic updates of this routine and the test manual via technical bulletins.

The vehicle inspector will apply the following inspection routine:

Stage 1

Greet customer.

Check VRM is on worksheet.

Check that details on, V5, Taximeter installation cert, euro3 cert (where required) and alternative fuel cert (where required), match records.

Enter Taximeter certificate details on system (if different from records).

Obtain vehicle keys.

Stage 2

Locate vehicle and carry out a quick visual inspection to ensure vehicle is safe to move, free of obvious body damage and that lamps /lenses /reflectors are intact.

Carry out servo test making sure oil pressure light functions correctly.

Check operation of power steering.

While driving to bay check ADL (if locks are heard to function this will be considered as working) and ABS warning system (if required).

Stop in beam test area, turn off engine and open driver's window.

Take paperwork to workstation and retrieve vehicle details from database. Enter mileage. Open bonnet making sure safety catch and bonnet prop operate correctly. Check VIN and VRM match file.

Check oil level then connect emissions equipment making sure to place exhaust extractor over exhaust.

Select emissions test and follow on screen instructions.

Remove emissions equipment.

Carry out visual under bonnet check;

- ☞ Visual check battery mounting and condition.
- ☞ Visual check steering components.
- ☞ Visual check condition and security of all visible fuel lines and wiring.
- ☞ Visual check clutch (if applicable) and power steering fluid level.
- ☞ Visual check brake fluid for level and contamination.
- ☞ Visual check condition of drive belts and any leaks from engine.
- ☞ Visual check condition of inner wings and bulkhead.

Close bonnet.

Enter any defects. Check and store results

Stage 3

Drive slowly over sideslip plate to assess wear, wheel alignment.

Position front wheels on suspension tester.

Check condition and operation of parking brake lever and ratchet and pawl.

Check taximeter seals, data equipment etc in drivers area.

Wait until prompted then allow front axle to enter rolling road/brake efficiency test.

Follow on screen prompts.

Drive out of rolling road and stop with rear wheels on suspension tester.

Check insurance document.

Check steering wheel mounting and free play.

Wait until prompted then allow rear axle to enter rolling road.

Follow on screen prompts for parking brake.

Follow on screen prompts for rear axle.

Drive out of rolling road and stop on hard standing.

Check operation of front indicators and lights in mirrors at the rear of ramp.

Check operation of tail, brake, rear fog, reversing and indicator lamps making sure all tell tale lamps operate.

Visually check passenger area for cleanliness and obvious defects.

Enter any defects and check results before storing.

Stage 4– Ramp inspection (10% sampling until April 2008)

Drive onto ramp turn engine off making sure to leave driver's window open.

Select vehicle on computer.

Rise ramp to waist height and fit brake bar.

Rise ramp to working height.

From underneath the vehicle visually check the condition of the following components using MAHA shaker plates and turning plates.

- ☞ Starting at o/s/f
 - Steering / box, pipes and hoses.
 - Suspension joints.
- ☞ Moving across front check for:-
 - Damaged, corroded or badly repaired chassis.
 - Visually check engine and pipes for leaks and damaged or broken mounts.
 - Visually check n/s/f steering and suspension joints.
 - Visually check steering idler box condition and mounting.
- ☞ Working down n/s check condition of:-
 - N/S/F Brake calliper, brake discs, pads and back plates.
 - N/S/F road wheel and tyre; overall condition, tread, etc.
 - Visually check chassis, bodywork mounts, pipes.
- ☞ At n/s/r check condition of:
 - Visually check suspension components and mounts.
 - Visually check brake pipes, back plate, cables and wiring.
 - Visually check rear axle for leaks damage and mounting.
 - Visually check road wheel and tyre; overall condition, tread, etc.
- ☞ At o/s/r check condition of:-
 - Visually check suspension components and mounts.
 - Visually check brake pipes, back plate, cables and wiring.

- Visually check exhaust / Euro3 AT or equivalent.
- Visually check road wheel and tyre; overall condition, tread, etc.
- ☞ Working up o/s check condition of:-
 - Chassis, bodywork mounts, pipes.
 - O/S/F brake calliper, brake discs, pads and back plates.
 - O/S/F Road wheel and tyre; overall condition, tread, etc.

Enter any defects and check results before storing

Stage 5

Check MAHA outputs and review inspection result

Print relevant documents.

Pass documents to owner.

Explain failure reasons if required.

Note

It is noted and accepted that parts of some components are only visible when the vehicle is in the wheel free position, therefore this inspection will be limited to those parts of components which are clearly visible at the time of inspection. A wheel free examination will be optional if required to facilitate investigation of suspected defects.