



**Taxi Licensing:
Mid-year safety inspections to include ramp element**

1. PCO Notice 27/07 confirmed the introduction of a mid-year safety inspection for all taxis licensed from 2 April 2007, in accordance with the requirement set out in article 14(o) of the London Cab Order 1934 (as amended by the London Cab Order 2007).
2. This Notice is to remind all drivers and owners of licensed taxis that, with effect from **2 April 2008**, all taxis undergoing a mid-year safety inspection will be subject to the ramp element of the mid-year inspection (ie those elements which comprise Stage 4 of the inspection as set out in Annex A attached to this Notice).
3. Annex A of PCO Notice 27/07 (entitled 'Taxi Licensing: Mid Year Inspection Routine) is replicated here for information.
4. Owners, overhaulers and vehicle presenters may find it useful to know that the current first time pass rate for vehicles undergoing a mid-year inspection is 63%. In addition, of those vehicles that have failed the inspection, the most common reasons for failure are:
 - diesel emissions (smoke test) 17%
 - taximeter/printer (failure to produce the certificate) 6%
 - shock absorbers 6%
 - brakes 3%

(NB: Some vehicles fail the inspection for more than one reason)

5. If you are a vehicle owner, driver or vehicle presenter who might be directly affected by this Notice and you require further information, 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".

Alan Matthews
Head of Projects and Developments

13 February 2008

For previous PCO Notices visit tfl.gov.uk/pco

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.