Non Standard Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions
for Stretched Limousines and Novelty Vehicles

A limousine, or other novelty vehicle capable of carrying no more than 8 passengers for hire or reward is a private hire vehicle, and all other interpretations, policies and conditions relevant to licensed private hire vehicles also apply, except where described below:

1 For the purposes of this policy and licence conditions, a stretched limousine is defined as a luxurious vehicle that has been modified (stretched) to extend the length of the vehicle. The stretch shall not exceed 120 inches [3048 millimetres]. The vehicle shall be capable of carrying up to, but not exceeding eight seated passengers. Each passenger seating area will be at least 400mm wide.

2 For the purposes of this policy, a novelty vehicle shall be defined as follows:-
   a) any vehicle that has been specially constructed adapted or converted by a low volume specialist vehicle manufacture or modifier;
   b) any vehicle that has been specially modified from it's original design or specification
   c) that is capable of carrying up to but not exceeding 8 passengers;
   d) vehicles intended for the carriage of fare paying passengers that, prior to the introduction of this policy/conditions, would not be licensed by the Authority as a private hire vehicle because they did not comply with one or more of the Standard Conditions relating to Private Hire Vehicles;
   e) Any vehicle that, in the opinion of the Licensing Team Leader, because of its specialist design/styling or origin or age is required to be classed as a Novelty Vehicle.

3 Age of Vehicle
Stretch limousines and other novelty vehicles will be licensed up to a maximum of fourteen years from the date of registration, provided the vehicle presented meets all of the Council’s other criteria in terms of appearance and maintenance.

4 Licence Plates
The vehicle licence plate must be kept in the boot of the vehicle at all times whilst the vehicle is licensed as a private hire vehicle. The internal plate must be displayed in the front windscreen at all times so that the details are clearly visible from both the interior and exterior of the vehicle.

5 Driver
Only a licensed private hire driver is permitted to drive the vehicle whilst it is licensed. The driver must ensure that they display their Council-issued identity badge in a prominent position on their person at all times whilst working or driving the vehicle.
The driver shall at all times be clean and respectable in their dress and behave in a civil and orderly manner.

6 Signs etc.

No sign, notice, advertisement, plate, mark, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices shall be used or displayed on, in or from the vehicle other than those legally required, those contained within these conditions, or any authorised company details. No company advertising will be permitted if it contains anything of a religious or political nature or advertises Tobacco, Alcohol, a sex shop or sex establishment, or contains any matter likely to cause offence.

Approval of the type and extent of the advertising should be sought from the Licensing Unit and written authorisation must be obtained prior to use. No signs or advertising containing the word “TAXI” or “CAB” will be permitted on any Private Hire vehicle.

The proprietor shall display and maintain any notices or signs on or in the vehicle as required by the Council when directed to do so.

7 Application Procedure

In relation to stretch limousines and novelty vehicles the following must be provided on application (this is in addition to the requirements for a standard Private Hire vehicle);

a) Individual Vehicle Approval Certificate
b) Documentation to confirm the overall weight of the vehicle
c) The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plate must display ‘1L1’ to confirm that the conversion has been completed by an authorised dealer. This will be confirmed by inspection prior to any licence being issued.

8 Passengers and Passenger Safety

a) The proprietor shall not permit the Limousine/Novelty Vehicle to be used to carry a greater number of passengers than the number prescribed in the licence. N.B. A babe in arms is classed as a person whatever age.

b) Passengers will not be carried in the front of the vehicle.

c) Where a clear view into the vehicle is restricted by either a window tint or the nature of the vehicle, the vehicle shall not carry less than two passengers at any one time. Where the passengers in the vehicle consist of persons under the age of 14 years they will be accompanied by a responsible adult, other than the driver, who is over the age of 18 years.

d) All passengers must remain seated at all times when the vehicle is in motion

e) The proprietor of the vehicle must:

i) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the vehicle may communicate with the driver.

ii) Ensure that the interior of the vehicle is kept wind and watertight.
iii) Ensure that the seats in the passenger compartment are kept properly cushioned and covered.

iv) Ensure that the floor in the passenger compartment is provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering.

v) Provide facilities for luggage to be conveyed safely and be protected from inclement weather.

vi) Provide at least two doors for use of persons conveyed in Limousine/Novelty Vehicle and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver.

vii) Ensure that the interior and exterior of the Limousine/Novelty Vehicle is kept in a clean condition.

viii) Ensure that seatbelts are fitted to all forward and rear facing seats. In accordance with Construction and Use Regulations, where seat belts are fitted they must be worn by passengers at all times when the vehicle is in motion.

ix) Ensure that an approved first aid kit will be carried in the vehicle at all times when the vehicle is in use.

9 Interior Lighting
There shall be maintained in the vehicle adequate internal lighting to enable passengers to enter and leave the vehicle with safety.

10 Maximum Stretch
The maximum length of a limousine “stretch” shall not exceed 120 inches [3048 millimetres]

11 Left hand drive vehicles will be considered for licensing as private hire vehicles.

12 Tyres and Road Wheels
The vehicle shall be equipped with a minimum of 4 road wheels and 1 full sized spare wheel. The tyres shall be of an approved rating as specified by the manufacturer.

13 Windows
The front windscreen shall allow a minimum level of 75% light transmittance and the front driver and passenger windows shall allow a minimum level of 70% light transmittance.

14 Decommissioned Vehicle Markings
Novelty vehicles based on decommissioned Military or Emergency Response vehicles must have all official marking or lights removed. Any colour scheme must be of a contrast to the original colour scheme and to that of any previous or current military or emergency response vehicles.

15 Roof Racks
Without prejudice to any other conditions in the Licence, a roof rack or any other device
for storing luggage shall not be installed or maintained on any part of the exterior of the vehicle except with the approval of the Council.

16 **Exemption Notice for Displaying a Licence Plate / Door Stickers**

A certificate exempting the vehicle from displaying a licence plate and Council-issued door stickers will be issued by the Council. This certificate must be carried in the vehicle at all times and be available for inspection on request by an authorised officer of the Council or a police constable.

17 **Convictions**

The Licensee and / or the proprietor shall within 72 hours disclose to the Authorised Officer in writing if they are arrested, charged, cautioned or convicted of any offence (including motoring offences) during the currency of the Licence. The Licensee’s / proprietor’s representative must fulfil this requirement if the driver is detained. The Licensee / proprietor must also notify the authorised officer in writing if he becomes aware that one of his driver’s has been arrested, cautioned, or convicted of any offence (including motoring offences) during the currency of the licence. Fixed Penalty Notices shall be reported to the Authorised Officer in writing upon acceptance from the Police Officer, as opposed to when the driving licence has been updated.

18 **Touting**

No person shall tout, solicit or approach any person to encourage them to be carried in the vehicle.

19 **Alcohol**

Alcoholic drinks provided in the vehicle shall be available only under the terms of an appropriate licence relating to the sale and supply of alcohol.

Alcohol shall only be consumed while the vehicle is stationary and the bottle shall immediately afterwards be placed in a secure receptacle.

If all of the passengers are below the age of 18, there shall be no alcohol in the vehicle for consumption or otherwise.

Any glassware used in the vehicle must be made of shatterproof glass or plastic.

20 **Licensing Act 2003**

The driver shall not play or permit the performance of any media that, given its age classification or content, is unsuitable for the age of the passengers in the vehicle.

The limousine operator shall ensure that a performing rights licence is held where appropriate.

A Premises Licence will be required for the provision of any form of regulated entertainment within the scope of the Licensing Act 2003 when the vehicle is parked.

21 **The vehicle shall be maintained in pristine condition with no visible defects, dents or blemishes to the external bodywork or internal trim or seating.**

The Council reserves the right to vary, delete or waive any of the foregoing Conditions.
DRIVER AND OPERATOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the limousine being licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle with Wycombe District Council, the limousine Operator is required to hold a Private Hire Operators’ Licence with Wycombe District Council.

All bookings for a limousine licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle must be booked through the licensed Private Hire Operator. Once licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle the limousine can only be driven by a Licensed Private Hire Driver who is also licensed by Wycombe District Council.

Details in respect of applications for Private Hire Drivers’ Licences and Private Hire Operators’ Licences can be obtained from the Licensing Unit.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sections 48 and 77 detail an applicant’s right of Appeal. In general terms where an applicant is aggrieved by the Council’s decision to refuse to grant a Private Hire Vehicle Licence or by any conditions imposed on a Private Hire Vehicle Licence the applicant has a right of Appeal to Magistrate’s Court within 21 days of the applicant being notified of the Council’s decision.

VEHICLE TESTING STATIONS

Licensed stretch limousines must be submitted for testing at six monthly intervals, to the appropriate Class MOT standard from a testing station nominated by the Licensing Unit.