

**Taxi and Private Hire Cars Age Limitation and Emission Standards**  
**Policy. Updated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Taxi or PHC licensed by the City of Edinburgh Council**  
**Age Limit**

1. **Effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022** there will be an Age Limit applied to Taxis and Private Hire Cars (PHC) licensed by the City of Edinburgh Council, Subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness, a taxi and PHC can be submitted for test prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period.
2. **Effective 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**, the Age Limit policy has been extended. A Euro 6 or CVRAS retrofitted Euro 5 Taxi is to be subject to a 14-year age limit to operate in the city until the committee receives a further report on this matter. This age limit is subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness and 6 monthly compliance tests from the vehicle's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will allow a vehicle to be submitted for test prior to the 14th anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period
3. **Effective 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**, the Age Limit policy has been extended. A Euro 6 or CVRAS retrofitted Euro 5 PHC is to be subject to a 14-year age limit to operate in the city until the committee receives a further report on this matter. This age limit is subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness and 6 monthly compliance tests from the vehicle's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will allow a vehicle to be submitted for test prior to the 14th anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period
4. **Effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022** Any Taxi or PHC which is converted to LPG will be an exception to the above age limit and allowed an additional 4 years of operation. Subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness and 6 monthly compliance test from the vehicles 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this will allow a vehicle to be submitted for test prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period
5. **Effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022** to allow any Electric Taxi or PHC, which is not a hybrid vehicle, to be an exception to the 10 year age limit and allow an additional 4 years of operation. Subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness and 6 monthly compliance test from the vehicles 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this will allow a vehicle to be submitted for test prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period

**In addition to vehicles requiring to meet the above age limits, the emission standards set out below will also apply with the relevant date for both age limitation and emission standards being the earliest date applicable in either category.**

## **Emission Standards**

6. **Effective 1 April 2019** no Taxi or PHC will thereafter be accepted for test unless it is Euro 5 or above. Any Euro 0-4 Taxi or PHC which has passed its test and is licensed prior to 1 April 2019 may continue to be operated until its licence expires or **31 Mar 2020** whichever date is earliest.
7. **Effective 1 April 2023** no Taxi or PHC will thereafter be accepted for test unless it is Euro 6 or above.
8. **From 1 April 2022** any new or replacement motor vehicle to be submitted for test in respect of a PHC or Taxi licence will require to be (or exceed) a Euro 6 taxi vehicle unless that vehicle is currently licenced by The City of Edinburgh Council

## **Electric Vehicles**

9. Any Electric Taxi or PHC, which is not a hybrid vehicle, to be an exception to the 10 year age limit and allow an additional 4 years of operation. Subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness and 6 monthly compliance test from the vehicles 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this will allow a vehicle to be submitted for test prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period.

## **Hybrid Vehicles**

10. Hybrid cars have electric elements to their powertrains but cannot be considered 'electric cars' due to the presence of a petrol engine. The term 'hybrid' is technically quite vague, but in the context of cars almost always refers to a petrol-electric powertrain. This means the car uses a combination of electricity stored in batteries and petrol stored in a tank to propel the car forward.
11. Hybrid cars at time of manufacture / registration all have a Euro rating which reflects the vehicles emissions level.

## **LPG Vehicles**

12. Prior to 2018 licensing conditions prevented the use of LPG vehicles and they had never previously been considered appropriate for licensing.
13. Any existing vehicle licenced by CEC can be converted to LPG provided that the following can be shown by the operator and that any modification is carried out at the owner's risk:
  - a. It is assessed as safe by the Taxi Examiners;
  - b. it is accompanied by an approval certificate obtained from DVSA; and
  - c. after such conversion subject to meeting normal conditions about roadworthiness and 6 monthly compliance test from the vehicles 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this will allow a vehicle to be submitted for test prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration for renewal of licence and can continue to operate until the expiry of that licence period.

## **Retro Fit / Replacement engines**

14. Retrofit means altering a vehicle's engine to reduce its emissions. Most retrofit systems fit to the existing 'dirty' engine and clean it up. Adding a filter and catalyst to the engine's exhaust reduces particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx), made up of nitrogen monoxide, or nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Particulate matter (PM) includes soot and wind-blown dust. A diesel particulate filter (DPF) is fitted to remove 98-99% of tailpipe particulates. Nitrogen oxide (NOx) comprises nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). By fitting a selective catalytic reduction (SCR), NOx is reduced by 80-90%
15. In some cases, a vehicle can be re-engined, i.e. the old engine is replaced with a new, cleaner engine. However, this requires significant upgrades to other parts of the vehicle's fuel and exhaust systems to be effective (i.e. replacement engine or LPG conversion).
16. In more general term just because a vehicle has been converted does not mean that its Euro 6 will change. DVSA advise that there is no mechanism to reclassify a vehicle's Euro once a vehicle is given a euro classification it will always have this and the V5 vehicle registration document cannot be changed in that regard. The Euro rating once issued remains with the vehicle for life.
17. Given that there are a wide range of retrofit solutions available Any existing vehicle licenced by CEC can be adapted to Euro 6 subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Any such systems must be approved by the Energy Savings Trust;
  - b. relevant certification must be provided prior to submitting the vehicle for test at the TEC;
  - c. the system is installed by a garage approved by the Energy Saving Trust Accreditation Scheme;
  - d. the retrofit solution does not interfere with the structural integrity of the vehicle; and
  - e. that the following can be shown by the operator and that any modification is carried out at the owner's risk

## **After market devices**

18. There are a number of aftermarket devices and fuel additives that manufacturers claim can improve fuel economy and/or reduce exhaust emissions. The majority if not all aftermarket devices require ongoing maintenance and do not provide a permanent or fixed solution to emissions accordingly, they have not been included within the policy and any application submitted would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Any applicant for either the grant or renewal of a taxi or PHC licence may request that a standard condition be disapplied in relation to his/her licence. Where an applicant seeks an exemption from the standard conditions in relation to either the age limitation or emission standards then such applications will be referred to Committee for determination on a case by case basis and it will be for individual applicants to set out their position as to why the conditions should not be applied. In any such case, were an applicant's requests for exemption to be refused then the applicant will be entitled to appeal the Committee's decision to the Sheriff.

## **Retirement policy**

19. Owners seeking an exemption to policy on the basis of retirement can be dealt with by council officer under delegated authority and given an exemption of up to a maximum period of 1 years dependant on circumstance.
  - a. Owners would have to provide a written declaration that it was their intention to retire and the intended date of retirement.
  - b. Only one exemption can be dealt with under delegated authority
20. It is acknowledged that circumstance can change and any change to retirement plans would be referred to committee for further consideration. In addition, any evidence of bad faith would also be referred to committee with an immediate request to vary terms of the licence and it may also be considered in context of an owner's suitability in terms of the fit and proper test.

## **Exemption from Policy**

21. Any applicant for either the grant or renewal of a taxi or PHC licence may request that a standard condition should be disappplied in relation to his/her licence. Where an applicant seeks an exemption from the standard conditions in relation to either the age limitation or emission standards, such applications will be referred to the Committee for determination on a case-by-case basis, and it will be for individual applicants to set out their position as to why the conditions should not be applied. In any such case, were an applicant's request for exemption to be refused then the applicant would be entitled to appeal the Committee's decision to the Sheriff.

## Vehicle Emissions Standard



A black silhouette of a car with the text "Euro 5" inside it.

### **Vehicle Age Limit (Effective from 1 April 2022)**



### Notes:

1. **These rules apply to both Taxi and PHC's**
  2. **Information in the triangle signifies the day on which the new phase starts**

## **Vehicle Age Limit (Effective from 1 May 2023 until further notice)**

**A Euro 6 or CVRAS retrofitted Euro 5, taxi submitted for test prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration can continue to operate until its renewal (15 Years)**



A Euro 6 or CVRAS retrofitted Euro 5 PHC submitted for test prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its registration can continue to operate until its renewal (15 Years)

