

**LICENCE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO STRETCHED
LIMOUSINES LICENSED AS PHVs IN HARLOW.**

Definition: A stretched limousine for the purpose of licensing in Harlow shall be a vehicle modified as a stretched vehicle, such as a Ford Lincoln, Ford Excursion, Cadillac, Volvo or Mercedes, by a converter approved by the manufacturer.

Small limousines, that is, those with fewer than 9 passenger seats, will in almost all cases not be type approved to British or European standards and thus will need to prove compliance through the Individual Vehicle Approval Scheme (IVA), formerly known as the Single Vehicle Approval scheme (SVA).

The IVA scheme provides a pre-registration inspection for all passenger and goods vehicles that have not been type-approved to British or European standards. The main purpose of this scheme is to ensure that these vehicles have been designed and constructed to modern safety and environmental standards before they can be used on public roads.

Before a vehicle is submitted to VOSA for an IVA inspection, evidence must be provided to demonstrate the modified vehicle's capability to operate at weights higher than the original vehicle's maximum gross weight where this will be exceeded when the vehicle is full of passengers. Key components such as the axles, suspension and brakes may have to be upgraded to take the extra weight of the converted vehicle, compared to the original base vehicle.

Evidence of an IVA inspection shall be required at the time of licence application.

A vehicle licence will not normally be granted if it has sustained accident damage resulting in structural distortion beyond the accepted limits of the vehicle manufacturer, or, has been disposed of under an insurance salvage agreement (categories A, B and S). The Council Private Hire Vehicle Standards allow for a category N write-off to be licensed.

Where the council's nominated garage is unable to fulfil the requirement of an MOT e.g. there is no large wheel-base ramp installed, the council shall accept an MOT from any VOSA Approved Testing Station. The vehicle will still have to attend and pass a Compliance Test at the Council's nominated garage.

The criteria for licensing these vehicles by Harlow Council will be the same as for private hire vehicles subject to the following **additional conditions**

1. The vehicle will be licensed for a maximum of eight passengers, and the applicant must confirm in writing that passenger numbers will be restricted to no more than 8 passengers.
2. Tinted windows must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 in so far as the windscreen and front side windows are Concerned
3. The vehicle may be left hand drive provided it is fitted with a forward-facing camera on the offside of the vehicle (such as in the wing mirror) and a monitor displaying video from the camera and visible to the driver;
4. The correct type of tyres of both the appropriate size and the correct weight loading must be fitted.
5. A seat belt must be fitted for each seat in accordance with the Construction and Use Regulations and must be used by passengers;
6. Each passenger must be able to exit the vehicle on both sides of the vehicle by either a door or an emergency window exit. Childproof locks which prevent

- egress from the rear of the vehicle shall not be fitted or if fitted, shall be permanently disabled;
7. The vehicle will be required to pass a vehicle compliance inspection, before licensing and at intervals, as specified by the Private Hire Vehicle Conditions.
 8. Where alcohol is supplied it must be authorised under the Licensing Act 2003 and no alcohol shall be supplied to any person below the age of 18.
 9. A licence badge, issued by the Licensing Team shall be displayed on the front windscreen (not in the area swept by wipers)
 10. the vehicle shall be exempted from the requirements to display a plate identifying it as a Private Hire Vehicle, and in accordance with section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, will not have to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle. The exemption shall also apply to door stickers and roof signs.
 11. The exemption certificate issued in relation to Condition 10 shall be carried in the vehicle and available for inspection at all times.
 12. All granted applications shall be issued with an exemption certificate. (Appendix B).