



**GUIDELINES FOR DRIVER SAFETY PARTITION  
SCREENS IN PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The installation of driver safety partition screens in vehicles used for private hire purpose is supported by Hart District Council (HDC) for the purposes of improving the safety of private hire drivers and reducing the threat of attack from passengers. However HDC also recognises that in fitting and using such devices the safety of drivers and passengers is vital.

1.2 All newly manufactured vehicles have achieved M1 European Whole Vehicle Type Approval following comprehensive safety testing. Changing or adding to the interior of the vehicle can alter the 'type approval' of the vehicle and also have consequences as to what might happen inside the vehicle in the event of a collision.

1.3 The purpose of these guidelines is to provide private hire vehicle owners, drivers and operators with guidance as to HDC's requirements in relation to the use of driver safety partition screens.

1.4 These guidelines apply to all driver safety partition screens which are installed after the original manufacture of the vehicle.

## **2. General Requirements**

2.1 Due to the wide and diverse variety of vehicles licensed in the district and different types of driver safety partition screens available it is not possible for HDC to offer specific purchase or installation advice in respect of these devices.

2.2 Whether a driver safety partition screen should be installed is a matter for vehicle owners, drivers and/or operators to consider. In making this decision, HDC considers that a number of matters should be considered including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) Ensuring that all relevant safety, UK and European Community (EC) legislation is complied with. Appendix 1 contains a list of EC legislation which should be considered, however the list is not exhaustive.

(ii) Ensuring that this guidance is complied with.

(iii) Consideration of health and safety responsibilities and personal liability to employees, hirers and passengers.

(iv) Informing insurers of the intention to fit such a device.

## **3. Specific Requirements**

3.1 If a driver safety partition screen is installed in a vehicle being used for private hire purposes, HDC requires the following specific requirements to be satisfied:

(i) The installation and/or design of the device must not adversely influence, change or interfere in any way with M1 type approval.

(ii) Installation and maintenance of the driver safety partition screen should be in full accordance with the manufacturer's specification and recommendations.

(iii) The device installed should not be significantly changed or modified from the original manufactured design. In cases where it is necessary to modify the original design of the device (for example, to facilitate installation of the device in the vehicle, assurance should be sought from the supplier/installer that the modification does not raise any concerns in relation to safety of the device or compliance with the relevant UK or EC legislation.

(iv) Devices should remain clear and be free of scratches, clouding or stickers which would impede the drivers or passengers' visibility.

(v) Devices should not impede entry or egress or present a trip hazard to passengers using the vehicle.

#### **4. Compliance**

4.1 Private hire vehicle owners, drivers and operators should seek to fully comply with these guidelines.

4.2 Installation of the device in the vehicle will require a declaration form (Appendix 2) to be completed, signed and presented at the time of the annual licensing inspection.

4.3 If during the annual licensing inspection (or during a compliance inspection) of the vehicle, it is found that these guidelines have not been complied with the vehicle may not be licensed or an existing licence may be suspended.

## Appendix 1

### Relevant EC Directives

HDC believes that the following EC directives below are applicable to driver safety partition screen. This is not an exhaustive list, but are some examples of EC Directives which could be adversely influenced or changed following the installation of such a device.

1. Does the glazed partition screen design/material impose upon the forward/side field of vision? (90/630/EC)
2. Does the glazed partition screen design/material impose upon the rearward field of view? (2005/27/EC)
3. Are the safety belt anchorages used to secure the shield? (2005/41/EC)
4. Does the glazed partition screen impose upon any part of a seatbelt during normal operation? (2005/40/EC)
5. What will be the effect on the head restraints? (78/932/EC)
6. What will be the effect in the event of the deployment of a frontal offset airbag? (96/79/EC)
7. What will be the effect in the event of deployment of a side/thorax airbag? (96/27/EC)
8. Does the weight of the glazed partition screen affect the seat strength (eg impact reaction)? (2005/39/EC)
9. Are there any sharp edges on the glazed partition screen material or its fittings? (2000/4/EC)
10. Is the type of glazed material safe for use inside a vehicle? (92/22/EC) 4

## Appendix 2

### Declaration Form

I confirm that I have received assurances from the supplier/installer of the driver safety partition screen that the installation and/or modification(s) made to facilitate the installation of this device to the vehicle stated below will not in any way contravene the relevant UK or EC legislation and/or will not interfere with or adversely affect the performance of the driver and/or passenger safety systems.

Owner Driver and/or Operator: .....

Signature: .....

Vehicle Make, Model and Registration: .....  
.....

Driver Safety Partition Screen, Make,  
Model, Manufacturer: .....  
.....

Date: .....