

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CONDITIONS
LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS
(HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND CENTRAL SERVICES)**

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Council has been approached by a licensed driver who is considering making application to licence a private hire vehicle fuelled by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Currently the Council does not have in place Licensing Conditions to cover the use and inspection of such vehicles.
- 1.2 Vehicles converted to run on LPG can achieve a significant financial saving in running costs once the initial outlay in purchase or conversion has been covered and can reduce the carbon footprint by on average 20% compared with a petrol vehicle. Qualifying LPG vehicles will also obtain a discount on road fund tax. Converted vehicles are bi-fuel, capable of running on both petrol and LPG. This requires a second fuel tank for the LPG. The tank may be housed in the spare wheel well or the boot.
- 1.3 LPG is a mixture of propane and butane, it is used in many household appliances including cigarette lighters and patio heaters and has an excellent safety record; its installation in vehicles nevertheless must be carried out by a competent person. The United Kingdom LPG Industry after consulting with the Department for Transport has set up an approved installer scheme. Under the scheme vehicles converted to LPG will be issued with conversion certificates certifying the competence of the conversion. It is a recommendation within the scheme that systems should be subject to an annual inspection.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 If it is deemed appropriate to allow the licensing of LPG fuelled vehicles additional conditions should be added to the existing schedules of conditions for both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to ensure the safety and well being of the travelling public. The conditions are:
- All Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) conversions are to be carried out by a LPGA Approved Installer and the vehicle proprietor issued with an LPG Conversion Certificate which must be produced when applying for either a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Licence.
 - The vehicle must display on the front and rear screens, a sticker stating that the vehicle has been fitted with an LPG tank to alert the emergency services in the event of an accident.
 - The LPG system is to be inspected annually by an LPGA Approved Installer.
 - The proprietor of the vehicle is to notify DVLA Swansea of its modification to run on LPG.

- The proprietor of the vehicle is to immediately notify his insurance company of its modification to run on LPG.
- If the tank containing the LPG is located within the spare wheel well of the vehicle then the spare wheel must be securely fixed in the boot of the vehicle.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members;

- a) Give approval for the licensing of vehicles converted to run on Liquefied Petroleum Gas.
- b) Approve the inclusion of the additional licensing conditions to both the Schedules of Licensing Conditions for Hackney carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

UKLPG's LPGA Approved Installer Scheme

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