

13 May 2020



## **Screens Fitted to Licensed Vehicles**

We have received a lot of enquires about protective plastic screens fitted between driver and passengers.

We are happy for these screens to be fitted to vehicles licensed by Eastleigh Borough Council but note we will not accept liability in circumstances in which a screen causes injury to a passenger or driver.

We ask that the following guidance is considered if you are to continue operating or driving a licensed vehicle and wish to install a screen/shield.

### **The screen/shield should:**

Not interfere with or compromise any operating or safety features in the vehicle (including airbags, handbrake, gearstick) or the vehicle type approval.

Not be made of materials that will increase the fire risk in the vehicle.

Be transparent enough so as not to interfere with the safe use of the vehicle, and to enable the driver and passengers to see each other; and remain clear of scratches, clouding or stickers which would impede the drivers or passengers' visibility.

Be adequately and safely secured and not interfere with the safe access and egress of the driver or passengers or become easily detached during normal use.

Be adequately disinfected between bookings and at the start and end of the working day.

### **Owners/Drivers/Operators should:**

Inform insurers about the intention to fit such a device and ensure their insurance will not be invalidated as a result. Written proof that your insurance company are agreeable must be supplied to the licensing team via email.

Fit/install screens at your own responsibility and in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations

Understand that this is a temporary measure and we reserve the right to require their removal with reasonable notice.

Be aware depending on the type fitted (full front/back partition or driver only) the front passenger seat in the vehicle may be unusable in which case the maximum number of passengers the vehicle is licensed to carry will be affected.

If an authorised officer has any concerns about the use of a partition screen in a licensed vehicle, they will speak to the owner and may require the removal of the device, they will explain their reasons in writing.

### **Advice on Sanitisation and Face Coverings**

Those who are working have a responsibility to take all possible precautions to keep themselves and their vehicles as safe and sanitised to help stop the spread of the virus. We advise you to frequently clean and disinfect surfaces using cleaning

products that are touched regularly i.e. door handles, seat belts and buckles and other obvious hard surfaces touched by a passenger, including areas that may have been infected following a passenger coughing or sneezing.

Face coverings do not replace social distancing but are advisable when in an enclosed space and where there is difficulty socially distancing.

**No use of the passenger front seat.**

During this health crisis, we will allow hackneys to refuse to take the number of passengers, as displayed on their licence to allow the front seat to not be used.

