

REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY
TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
21st AUGUST 2015

USE OF TEMPORARY REPAIR KITS

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To ask Members to consider authorising licensing officers to grant licences for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles where they are manufactured without provision for a spare wheel or have been supplied without a spare wheel and are supplied with a temporary repair kit.

2.0 Current Considerations

- 2.1 Currently, all licensed vehicles are required to have a spare wheel including a skinny spare and space saver type spare or be fitted with run flat tyres.
- 2.2 Many vehicles are now supplied with a tyre sealant and tyre inflation packs as an alternative to a spare wheel and in many of these cases the customer does not have a choice of a spare wheel due to the configuration or design space of the model itself.
- 2.3 Post puncture sealant products provide a temporary repair and are not considered as a permanent repair. The post puncture sealant products also have a 'shelf life' (marked on the containers), a date beyond which their effectiveness diminishes.
- 2.4 Due to the changes being made by vehicle manufacturers an increasing number of vehicles are being presented for licensing without a spare wheel. In view of this discussions have been held with an officer from the Central Transport Unit (CTU) in relation to the suitability of the use of temporary repair kits. He has confirmed that an increasing number of vehicle are being supplied without a spare wheel of any type and that temporary repair kits are being provided as an acceptable alternative temporary repair. The officer will be present at Committee to answer any technical questions Members may have.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that after consideration of this report and after hearing from the officer from the Council's Transport Unit that :

- a) Officers of the Licensing Section are authorised to grant a vehicle licence for a vehicle provided with a temporary repair kit in place of a spare wheel subject to the following conditions being attached to the licence:
 - i) Vehicles approved for the use of a temporary repair kit in place of a spare wheel will be equipped with a repair kit at all times for use in accordance with the manufacturers guidelines;
 - ii) Where a puncture does occur, proprietors and drivers shall seek alternative arrangements for continuation of the passengers journey before utilising the temporary repair kit;
 - iii) Vehicles that utilise a temporary repair kit in order to complete a hiring shall be used in conjunction with the manufacturer's guidelines and not be used for any further hiring until the wheel or tyre has been replaced;
 - iv) Vehicle proprietors of vehicles that utilise a temporary repair kit will keep a record of the date and time the repair kit was last used in the vehicle at all times and will obtain and retain evidence that the wheel or tyre has been replaced. Such information will be readily available for officers upon request.

The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested

Background Papers: none
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