



**Report of the Licensing and
Food & Safety Manager
General Licensing Committee
14th December 2018**

Request to Remove Minimum Engine Size/Capacity Requirement

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A number of enquiries have been received by the Licensing Division from vehicle proprietors of both the hackney carriage and private hire trade who wish to licence vehicles where the engine size falls under the required 1500cc.
- 1.2 The current conditions have been in place since 2005 although have been subject to changes approved by the Licensing Committee where necessary.
- 1.3 A report requesting the removal of the minimum engine size/capacity was previously considered by the General Licensing Committee on the 12th August 2016. The decision of the Committee at that time was that the minimum engine size requirement of 1500cc be retained.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 Currently the hackney carriage, private hire and restricted private hire vehicle conditions require that the engine capacity of all vehicles shall not be less than 1500cc.

3.0 Proposal

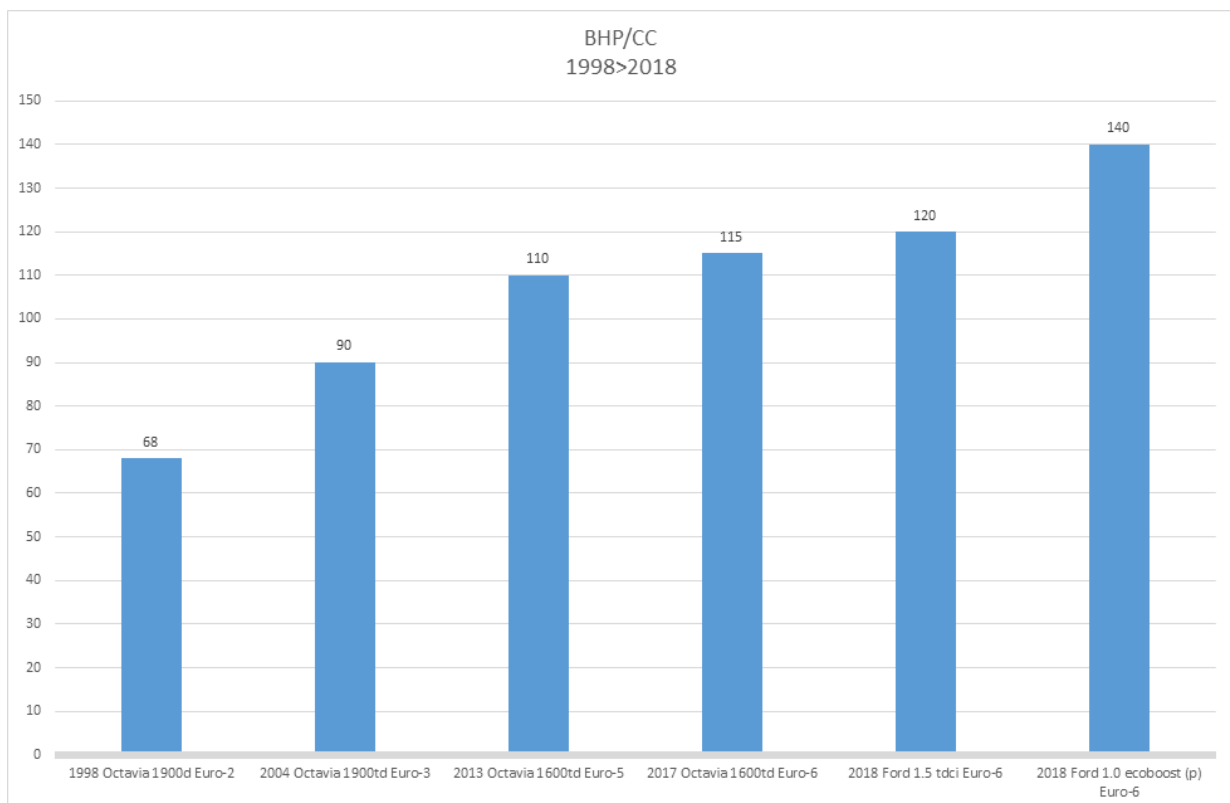
- 3.1 Due to the advances in car manufacturing since 2005, a number of licensed proprietors have expressed concerns that the engine size restriction specified in the vehicle conditions is out of date and request that this restriction is removed.
- 3.2 The removal of this restriction would mean that all vehicles would be considered on merit regardless of engine capacity.

4.0 Research

4.1 Officers have carried out research into this matter and it is clear that car manufacturers are investing a considerable amount of money in producing engines that will match/improve, the power output of vehicles together with improvements in fuel consumption and exhaust emissions.

This can be seen by advances in the following:

- a. Turbo chargers, which allow for the engine to be reduced in cc (cubic capacity) and weight, whilst increasing the power/performance output of the engine i.e. miles per gallon, emissions.
- b. Increase in torque output. Torque is the engine's rotational force. It differs from horsepower as it refers to the amount of work an engine can exert, while horsepower defines how quickly that work can be delivered. Torque is often referred to in layman's terms as 'pulling power'
- c. Changes to brake horse power (BHP) – As illustrated below, in 1998 the Skoda Octavia 1900cc, a normally aspirated diesel engine (no turbo) had 68 BHP. The modern day equivalent vehicle has a 1600 turbo diesel engine with 115 BHP.



d. Introduction of Euro 6 Emissions - improved emission standards

Tier	Date	<u>CO</u>	<u>THC</u>	<u>NMHC</u>	<u>NO_x</u>	<u>HC+NO_x</u>	<u>PM</u>	<u>PN [# /km]</u>
Diesel								
Euro 1†	July 1992	2.72 (3.16)	-	-	-	0.97 (1.13)	0.14 (0.18)	-
Euro 2	January 1996	1.0	-	-	-	0.7	0.08	-
Euro 3	January 2000	0.66	-	-	0.50	0.56	0.05	-
Euro 4	January 2005	0.50	-	-	0.25	0.30	0.025	-
Euro 5a	September 2009	0.50	-	-	0.180	0.230	0.005	-
Euro 5b	September 2011	0.50	-	-	0.180	0.230	0.005	6×10 ¹¹
Euro 6	September 2014	0.50	-	-	0.080	0.170	0.005	6×10 ¹¹
Petrol (Gasoline)								
Euro 1†	July 1992	2.72 (3.16)	-	-	-	0.97 (1.13)	-	-
Euro 2	January 1996	2.2	-	-	-	0.5	-	-
Euro 3	January 2000	2.3	0.20	-	0.15	-	-	-
Euro 4	January 2005	1.0	0.10	-	0.08	-	-	-
Euro 5	September 2009	1.0	0.10	0.068	0.060	-	0.005**	-
Euro 6	September 2014	1.0	0.10	0.068	0.060	-	0.005**	6×10 ¹¹ ***

All new diesel cars sold from September 2014 must meet Euro 6 Emissions standards for exhaust emissions of NOx (Nitrogen Oxide) and other pollutants.

From the table above it can be seen that the level of permitted exhaust emissions of NOx has been reduced by half from 0.180 ppm (parts per million) in September 2009 to 0.080 ppm in September 2014.

- e Hybrid Vehicles – these are vehicles which are operated by two forms of power. In recent years there has been an increase in the production of hybrid vehicles which have engines smaller than 1500cc. Members may wish to note that the new London TX is equipped with a 1300cc petrol engine.
- f Electric Vehicles – solely electric vehicles are now being manufactured.

5.0 Considerations

- 5.1 In view of the requests made, discussions have been held with an Officer from the Central Transport Unit (CTU) regarding the suitability of the removal of the engine size restriction from the vehicle conditions. The officer has confirmed that the removal of the condition would allow the City and County of Swansea taxi trade to contribute to the enhancement of the environment under the Green Agenda, as complied with by the Council with its own fleet of over 700 vehicles. The officer will be present at Committee to answer any technical questions Members may have.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that after consideration of this report and hearing from the officer from the Council's CTU, that the condition requiring that the engine capacity of the hackney carriage, private hire and restricted private hire vehicles must be not less than 1500cc is removed.

The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested.

Background Papers:	Licence Application
Contact Officer:	Kath Thomas
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Legal Contact:	Aled Gruffydd