

Standard Conditions for a Taxi Drivers Licence

1. The driver of a taxi shall at all times, while he is in charge of a taxi as such, have with him the taxi driver's licence or such other means of identification issued by South Ayrshire Council and he shall exhibit such licence or identification on demand, to any passenger, constable, or authorised officer of South Ayrshire Council. The identification issued by South Ayrshire Council shall include the driver's name, a recent photograph showing his true likeness and the date on which the licence expires.
2. The driver of a taxi vehicle shall undertake and pass an approved training course within a period of six months from the date of issue of this licence. For this purpose the training course is being delivered by Ayr College who are contactable on 0800 199798. Any application for exemption from this condition should be submitted in writing and will be considered by an Independent Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council.
3. The driver of a taxi shall operate on shared hire only with the consent of the first hirer or passenger, even if there is displayed on the taxi a sign or other thing approved by South Ayrshire Council indicating that the taxi is available for shared hire; but he shall not be required to operate on shared hire if no such sign or other thing is displayed; on the taxi at the time of the initial hiring.
4. The driver of a taxi which is on exclusive hire may not, under any circumstances, pick up or convey another passenger without the consent of the original hirer or passenger(s).
5. The driver of a taxi shall not at any time convey in the taxi more than the number of passengers the taxi is licensed to carry.
6. The driver of a taxi which has been hired on exclusive hire shall drive to the destination by the shortest practicable route unless otherwise instructed by the hirer. The driver of a taxi which has been hired on shared hire shall take the shortest practicable route which will serve the destination of all the passengers whom he is carrying at any one time.
7. The driver of a taxi not being used as a taxi-bus shall, unless the cost of the journey is regulated by South Ayrshire Council fare structure, inform the hirer or passenger before the journey commences (a) that the fare is not so regulated, (b) the cost, or the method of calculating the cost, of the proposed journey and further that at the completion of the journey demand no more than the fare so agreed upon.
8. The driver of a taxi shall ensure that a taximeter fitted in the taxi in his charge shall be operated at all times, within the licensed area, in accordance with the detailed requirements imposed by South Ayrshire Council, as detailed in the conditions annexed to the licence in respect of the taxi.
9. The driver of a taxi shall from time to time, and at least once in each day in which he uses the taxi, inspect the seals on the taximeter to ensure that they are intact. On discovering that the seals have become broken or damaged, or that the taximeter has ceased to function correctly, the driver of a taxi shall immediately withdraw the vehicle from service.

10. Subject to conditions 11 and 12 below the driver of a taxi shall not refuse to drive a passenger to any place within the licensing area.
11. The driver of a taxi on shared hire may decline to accept a further passenger on the grounds that his intended destination could not be served without an excessive or unreasonable addition to the journey distance of the existing passenger or passengers, or that the further passenger's luggage cannot be accommodated safely within the luggage compartment of the taxi.
12. The driver of a taxi need not convey any hirer or passenger who is drunk or otherwise not in a fit and proper state to be carried, or whose condition or clothing is offensive or likely to cause damage to the interior of the taxi, or is accompanied by any animal which is likely to damage or soil the interior of the taxi, or for any other reasonable excuse.
13. The driver of a taxi, while he is in charge of the taxi, shall not canvass or importune in any public place or street for employment except, where the taxi is being operated on shared hire, to such extent as is reasonably required to ascertain whether there are any prospective further passengers (in addition to an existing passenger or existing passengers) who wish to participate in the shared hire of the taxi.
14. The driver of a taxi shall not refuse to carry luggage in his taxi providing that the said luggage can be accommodated safely within the luggage compartment of the taxi.
15. The driver of a taxi shall give such assistance as he is able to give with loading and unloading luggage when required to do so but he shall not be required to leave the immediate proximity of the taxi in doing so.
16. The driver of a taxi, at the end of his shift, shall search the taxi of which he is in charge for any property which may have been left therein. Any property found by the driver shall, within 24 hours, be returned to the owner of the property if known or such property shall be handed in by the driver to any Police Station.
17. The driver of a taxi, while carrying a passenger, shall be clean and tidy in his person and clothing, shall conduct himself in a proper and civil manner.
18. The driver of a taxi shall not knowingly allow the taxi in his charge to be used for illegal or immoral purposes, permit to be carried in the taxi in his charge any article of a dirty, filthy or noxious nature or an explosive or dangerous nature, or permit to be carried in the taxi in his charge any person who has vermin on his person.
19. The driver of a taxi shall ensure that the taxi, including all bodywork, upholstery and fittings, is in a safe and serviceable condition and, subject to prevailing road conditions, is in a clean condition.
20. Unless South Ayrshire Council makes specific arrangements for particular stances when a taxi is driven off a stance, the driver of the taxi immediately behind shall draw up his vehicle to take the place vacated and the taxi drivers on the stance behind shall draw up their vehicles in a like manner.

21. The driver of a taxi which is being operated on shared hire may wait at a stance only for such time as is reasonably required to ascertain whether there are any prospective further passengers (in addition to an existing passenger or existing passengers) in the immediate vicinity of the stance at that time who wish to participate in the shared hire of the taxi; but if no such further passengers are found there and then, the driver shall immediately drive his taxi off the stance.
22. The driver of a taxi, when the taxi is hired or standing for hire, shall either sit in the driving seat of the taxi or stand in the immediate proximity thereto except during any period he may be absent to announce the arrival of his taxi to the hirer or when assisting the hirer with luggage to or from the taxi for any other necessary purpose.
23. Where there is a material change of circumstances affecting the licence holder, or the activity to which the licence relates, the licence holder must notify South Ayrshire Council of the change as soon as reasonably practicable after it has taken place.
24. The licence holder shall deliver this licence document to South Ayrshire Council where the licence relates to an activity which he/she has given up or has had suspended/revoked and that within seven days of the said surrender/suspension/revocation.
25. Where the taxi has been hired (a) by or for a disabled person who is accompanied by a guide dog, hearing dog or an assistance dog of that person; or (b) by a person who wishes such a disabled person to accompany that person in the taxi, the driver of the taxi shall carry the disabled person's dog and allow it to remain with the disabled person and shall not make any additional charge for doing so.
26. In the conditions:

"exclusive", as applied to the hire of a taxi, means that a single fare is payable by any one passenger for the whole hire of the taxi, whether or not more than one passenger is carried; and "exclusive hire" shall be construed accordingly;

"shared", as applied to the hire of a taxi, means that each passenger is carried at a separate fare, payable to the driver; and "shared hire" shall be construed accordingly; and

"taxi-bus" means a taxi which is being used, under special licence granted under section 12 of the Transport Act 1985, to provide a local service which is or requires to be registered under Part I of that Act, has been previously advertised and which has a destination and route which are not entirely at the discretion of the passengers.
27. The driver of a taxi shall be bound to fulfil, or cause to be fulfilled, at the time and location specified, an engagement to hire his taxi which he has accepted, unless prevented by sufficient cause.