



Clarification Regarding Age Limit Exemptions for Taxis

Transport for London (TfL) has received a number of queries from taxi drivers asking for clarification with regard to possible exemptions for taxis subject to the 15 year age limit, which was introduced on 1 January 2012 as part of the Mayor of London's Air Quality Strategy.

Full details of age limit exemptions were included in TPH Notice [09/11] and are set out on the TfL website

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/businessandpartners/taxisandprivatehire/21358.aspx>

In summary TfL is authorised to exempt vehicles from the age limits, for a maximum of 5 years, if they meet specific criteria. Following consultation with taxi trade representatives it was decided that exemptions to the 15 year age limit might primarily be granted for vehicles which fall into one (or more) of the following categories:

- alternative fuel conversions
- historic/classic/niche vehicles
- vehicles specifically adapted for disabled drivers
- vehicles subject to the Low Emission Zone
- vehicles used for specialist needs transport
- wheelchair accessible PHV vehicles

TfL has the ability to issue exemptions outside the primary categories if it considers it appropriate to do so. Such exemptions are only likely to be granted, for clearly defined periods of up to a maximum of 12 months, where the applicant can satisfy TfL that exceptional circumstances exist. This could, for example, be due to non-standard fuel conversions, and/ or specific mitigating personal circumstances.

From the introduction of the age limits on 1 January 2012 until 31 August 2012 TfL has received a total of 16 formal requests for exemptions from the 15 year age limit.

Of these, 13 have been granted, as follows:

- 9 alternative fuel conversions
- 1 vehicle adapted for use by a disabled driver
- 2 historic/classic/niche vehicles

- 1 case where the request did not meet the primary criteria for exemption but where TfL was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for a 12 month extension

Any driver who feels they have a vehicle falling into the primary exemption categories, or exceptional circumstances that warrant an exemption, can write to TfL via TPH.Enquiries@TfL.gov.uk requesting consideration for an exemption to the 15 year age limit, and providing full supporting information.



John Mason
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