

PRIVATE HIRE and HACKNEY CARRIAGE TESTING REPORT
April – September 2007

To -Taxi and Private Hire Licensing and Safety Committee

Author - Marten Pleaden

Contents - Report - Appendices

Appendix 1 - Statistics of Failure Rates

Appendix 1a – Monthly s of Fail

Appendix 2 - Statistics of Items Failed/Proportion of Failed Items

Appendix 3 - Age Profile Statistics

Appendix 4 - Failure to Attend Statistics

[Not for publication – exempt information by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 7 of Schedule 12[A] of the Local Government Act 1972[as amended]]

Purpose

To inform members, and the Trade of:

- Test failure rates of both Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles undergoing scheduled tests at Walsall Council MOT test centre.
- Proportion of vehicles that failed to attend for scheduled tests.

Summary

During the period of April to September 2007 a total of 1067 Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles were scheduled to attend Walsall Council MOT Test Centre.

Separate statistics have been devised to indicate:

- Test Failure Rates (Appendix 1).
- Fails with more than 1 critical item (Appendix 2).
- Vehicle Age Profile / Failure Rates (Appendix 3).
- Failure to Attend for scheduled tests (Appendix 4).

The table below shows a summary of statistics:

Statistics

Total Tests Booked	Total Failed to Attend	Total Tested	Total Failed	% Fail Rate	% Fail Rate of more than 1 Safety Critical Item
1067	280	787	463	59%	86%

This report provides an Introduction as to why the report was generated, findings of initial investigations, conclusions of analysis and a Risks and Issues Log.

Introduction

This report has been produced at the request of elected members and the PH & HC representatives, in order for members to be aware of the current rate of vehicle test failures and non-attendance of vehicles for scheduled tests.

Findings

Records for Private Hire and Hackney carriage tests were analysed for the period April to September 2007, the results are as follows:

- Failure Rates (Appendix 1) of 787 tests carried out. 463 failed their initial inspection, giving a failure rate of 59%. Of the 463 failed, 399 failed on more than 1 safety critical item, resulting in a total of 86% failing on more than 1 safety critical item.
- A complete list of items failed and % rates are identified in Appendix 2.
- To determine any age differential within fail rates an analysis of vehicle ages has been produced, see Appendix 3. The results suggest that there is no significant improvement in passes rates when the vehicles age is taken into account.
- From a total of 1067 scheduled tests, 260 Private Hire and 20 Hackney Carriages failed to arrive during the 6 month period. Full statistics are identified in Appendix 4.

Conclusion

- There appears to be no significant difference in the fail rates of Private Hire and Hackney Carriages.
- The initial failure rates may be considered excessive, in that, the national average for MOT failures is the region of 27% (figures supplied by the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA)).
- 86% of vehicles failed tests on more than 1 safety critical item.
- Age profiles suggest no higher pass rate for newer vehicles.
- An average of 47 vehicles per month failed to attend for their scheduled tests.
- Loss of 47 available test appointments per month

Recommendations

- To continue with current vehicle testing frequency, with the option for random checks.
- To encourage Private Hire/Hackney Carriage operators to implement a more robust vehicle maintenance/service programme.
- Implement an action plan to introduce a failure to attend fee of £25 if less than 24 hours or no notice is given. Recommended by Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group on the 21st November 2007.
- To continue with current vehicle age licensing conditions.

Risks and issues

The risks and issues are outlined below:

Risks	Impact	Probability	Mitigation
Unroadworthy licensed vehicles in use	High	High	Continue with current testing programme.
Potential unlicensed vehicles in use	High	High	Ensure test appointments available at the earliest possible opportunity. Increased enforcement.
Fail to attend for test	High	Med	Inform Taxi Enforcement Office of non-attendance. Introduce fee for non-attendance.

Appendix 1

PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE TEST FAIL RATES

TOTAL- APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2007

	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILED	TOTAL FAILED (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% FAILED ON MORE THAN 1 SAFETY CRITICAL ITEM
PH&HC	787	463	399	59%	86%
PH	672	392	339	58%	87%
HC	115	70	60	61%	86%

Appendix 1a

April	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILURES	TOTAL FAILURES (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% OF FAILURES THAT ARE MORE THAN 1
PH&HC	104	61	48	59%	59%
PH	92	54	43	59%	58%
HC	12	7	5	58%	58%

May	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILURES	TOTAL FAILURES (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% OF FAILURES THAT ARE MORE THAN 1
PH&HC	113	58	46	51%	79%
PH	94	9	39	52%	80%
HC	19	9	7	47%	78%

June	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILURES	TOTAL FAILURES (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% OF FAILURES THAT ARE MORE THAN 1
PH&HC	146	66	60	45%	91%
PH	126	57	51	45%	89%
HC	20	9	9	45%	100%

July	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILURES	TOTAL FAILURES (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% OF FAILURES THAT ARE MORE THAN 1
PH&HC	142	90	84	63%	94%
PH	118	73	68	62%	93%
HC	24	17	16	71%	94%

August	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILURES	TOTAL FAILURES (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% OF FAILURES THAT ARE MORE THAN 1
PH&HC	140	95	84	68%	88%
PH	123	84	74	68%	88%
HC	17	11	10	65%	91%

September	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL FAILURES	TOTAL FAILURES (MORE THAN 1 ITEM)	TOTAL FAILURE %	% OF FAILURES THAT ARE MORE THAN 1
PH&HC	142	93	77	65%	83%
PH	119	75	64	63%	85%
HC	23	17	13	74%	76%

Appendix 2

ITEMS FAILED/ PROPORTION OF FAILED ITEMS

	PH	HC	TOTAL	%
LIGHT FAILURES	271	49	320	40.61
BRAKE FAILURES	131	27	158	20.05
SUSPENSION FAILURES	106	16	122	15.48
STEERING FAILURES	70	21	91	11.55
TYRE FAILURES	155	20	175	22.21
EMISSIONS FAILURES	106	30	136	17.26
SEAT BELT FAILURES	27	5	32	4.06
INT/EXT CONDITION FAULTS	188	31	219	27.79
2 ITEMS + FAILURES	343	60	403	51.14

Appendix 3

AGE PROFILE

YEAR	Pass	Fail	Total	% Pass	% Fail
1991	3	1	4	75.00	25.00
1992	1	1	2	50.00	50.00
1993		9	9	0.00	100.00
1994	1	5	6	16.67	83.33
1995	1	3	4	25.00	75.00
1996	7	7	14	50.00	50.00
1997	1		1	100.00	0.00
1998	9	26	35	25.71	74.29
1999	19	43	62	30.65	69.35
2000	33	79	112	29.46	70.54
2001	48	78	126	38.10	61.90
2002	84	111	195	43.08	56.92
2003	72	67	139	51.80	48.20
2004	16	14	30	53.33	46.67
2005	2	9	11	18.18	81.82
2006	17	8	25	68.00	32.00
2007	11	2	13	84.62	15.38
Grand Total	325	463	787	41.24	58.76

**SUMMARY OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE
VEHICLES FAILED TO ARRIVE FOR SCHEDULED
TESTS.**

APRIL 2007 40

MAY 2007 33

JUNE2007 51

JULY 2007 45

AUGUST 2007 60

SEPTEMBER 2007 51

**TOTAL OF 280 VEHICLES FAILED TO ARRIVE FOR THEIR
SCHEDULED TESTS BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER 2007
OF WHICH 20 WERE HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY TAXI / PH. FTA. SUMMARY

- AVERAGE OF 47 FTA'S PER MONTH
- POTENTIAL OF VEHICLES BEING USED UNLICENSED AND THEREFORE UN-INSURED. AND POSSIBLY WITHOUT A CURRENT MOT.
- POTENTIAL OF UNSAFE VEHICLES BEING USED.
- HAS A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT UPON THE MOT TEST DIARY BOOKINGS
- IS DETRIMENTAL TO OTHER TAXI/ PH OWNERS, IN THAT THERE ARE AN AVERAGE OF 47 LOST TEST SLOTS PER MONTH WHICH COULD BE USED, AND THEREFORE REDUCE WAITING TIMES FOR TESTS AND RETESTS.
- PUTS STRAIN UPON THE TESTING SERVICE RESOURCES – AS THE FAIL TO ARRIVE TESTS STILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMODATED AT A LATER DATE.