

# EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

# TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE

# VEHICLE TYRES

Licensed Passenger Vehicles (up to 3,500kg GVW)

Your vehicle is your business. Safe tyres protect your passengers, your badge, and your livelihood.

Remember to:



## AIR PRESSURE

Check pressures weekly when cold. Adjust for full passenger and luggage loads to avoid rapid shoulder wear and blowout risks.

## CONDITION

Perform daily pre-shift checks for kerbing damage, sidewall bulges, and legal DOT age codes. Beware of non-compliant part-worn tyres.

## TREAD

Legal minimum is 1.6mm across the central 75%. Consider the benefits of replacing at 3mm to ensure wet braking safety with passengers on board.

Licensed vehicles are regularly checked during joint enforcement operations between the DVSA, Police, and Local Licensing Authorities.



Simply place a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of your tyres.

Check at least three locations around each tyre.



If the outer rim of the coin is obscured

Your tread depth is above the legal limit.



If the outer rim of the coin is **VISIBLE**

Your tyres may be illegal and unsafe. **Get them checked immediately by a tyre professional.**

# HOW TO CHECK YOUR TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE TYRES



Use the QR code to view our tyre check videos

|                            | <br><b>AIR PRESSURE &amp; VARIABLE LOADS</b>                                                                                    | <br><b>CONDITION, RATINGS &amp; AGE</b>                                                                                                                | <br><b>PART-WORN TYRE RISKS</b>                                                                                                                              | <br><b>PRE-SHIFT COMPLIANCE CHECKS</b>                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHAT IT IS</b>          | Recommended cold inflation pressure adjusted between driver-only driving and carrying maximum passengers with heavy luggage (measured in psi or bar).                                                              | Visual check for structural damage, sidewall cuts, Extra Load (XL) / EV ratings, and tyre age (4-digit DOT code, e.g., 1224 = 12th week of 2024).                                                                                       | Understanding the legal requirements for part-worn tyres (Motor Vehicle Tyres Safety Regulations 1994) vs. the false economy of buying second-hand.                                                                                           | Daily 60-second walkaround check, axle matching, and avoiding non-compliant swap-overs or temporary plug repairs.                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>WHY IT IS IMPORTANT</b> | Carrying full fares on under-inflated tyres generates extreme heat, causing rapid shoulder wear and severe blowout risk. Correct pressure also optimises battery range or fuel economy, saving you time and money. | High-mileage, heavy electric PHVs and purpose-built cabs require XL/EV reinforced tyres to handle weight and instant torque. Licensing authorities enforce strict age limits (often 6–10 years max) and zero-tolerance on cords/bulges. | Over 90% of part-worn tyres sold in the UK are non-compliant. They cost more per millimetre of usable tread than new tyres and can carry hidden, unsafe internal carcass fatigue.                                                             | DVSA examiners and Licensing Officers conduct joint roadside spot-checks. Defective tyres trigger Immediate DVSA Prohibition Notices (PG9), taking your vehicle off the road instantly, alongside £2,500 fines, 3 penalty points, and local authority badge reviews. |
| <b>HOW TO CHECK</b>        | Check pressures weekly when cold against the door jamb plate or handbook. Increase pressures accordingly when carrying 4+ passengers plus luggage (rear pressures can require up to 30%+ increase).                | Daily inspection for cuts, bulges, or kerbing tears. Check sidewall for correct 'XL' or 'EV' markings. Verify the 4-digit DOT age code on all tyres to ensure compliance with local council licensing rules.                            | Avoid part-worn tyres where possible. If purchased, ensure they are legally stamped 'PART-WORN' (4mm text), have a minimum 2mm tread, were properly pressure-tested prior to sale, and if puncture repaired, meet BS AU 159 safety standards. | Check directional arrow orientation, valve caps, and axle tyre matching (same make/pattern per axle recommended for emergency braking stability). Ensure puncture repairs comply with BS AU 159 (no roadside string plugs).                                          |

Licensing officers view poor maintenance as a **FAILURE OF PROFESSIONAL DUTY OF CARE**. Daily pre-shift checks protect your passengers, prevent costly downtime, and keep your badge safe.