



Bristol Taxi Trade Guidance - Installation of temporary screens in vehicles during COVID-19

The government has recently made some changes and has been clear that we should all observe 'social distancing'. This means staying at least two metres apart from other people. However, as licensed vehicles are different sizes, this guidance is hard to follow.

The council in line with the Local Government Association (LGA) has produced the following guidance on temporary screens to be installed in licensed vehicles. Some drivers may wish to install a screen as a temporary measure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LGA highlights that there is currently limited evidence of temporary screens reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus. The need for fitting temporary screens in vehicles is currently unclear, and it is entirely up to driver's proprietors and operators if they wish to install a temporary screen. The installation of temporary screens is a short term measure and the council reserve the right to require their removal.

The guidelines below will help protect you and your customers from the spread of infection, and give confidence to customers that licensed vehicles are one of the safer forms of public transport.

The following guidance should be considered when installing temporary screens:

- Screens must be compliant with government and industry regulations, for example the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations and relevant safety, UK and European Community (EC) legislation.
- All screens shall be constructed of PETG (Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol-modified) or polycarbonate.
- The screen and installation shall not compromise the integrity of the vehicle's structure and built in safety features such as air bags.
- Screens must be professionally and securely fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Fleet Services are able to carry out a check of the fitting of screens.
- The screens shall not impede the driver's vision, movement, or communication with passengers, or the driver or access to the vehicle. The screen shall remain clear of scratches, clouding or stickers.
- Insurers should be notified of any modifications made to the vehicle. Drivers should ensure their insurance will not be invalidated as a result of installation.
- The screen shall be disinfected between bookings and at the start and end of each working day.

If you decide to install a screen you must provide the following before installation::

1. Details of the proposed screen – including what it will be made from and how it will be fitted.
2. Evidence from the screen manufacturer of compliance with Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations.
3. Evidence that the screen is constructed of PETG (Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol-modified) or polycarbonate.
4. Confirmation from the screen manufacturer that the installation does not compromise the integrity of the vehicle's structure and safety features.

The following should be provided within five working days of the screen being installed ::

1. Notification that a temporary screen has been installed.
2. Evidence that the temporary screen has been installed professionally and securely fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. A copy of your notification to your insurance company informing them a screen has been installed;

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges for the taxi and private hire trade, and we want to help you return to work and continue operating as safely and quickly as possible. If you have any queries please contact the Licensing Team via email at: licensing@bristol.gov.uk.