

Installing temporary protective screens in taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

In light of the COVID-19 virus and the impact it is having on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade, we are working with taxi drivers and firms to enable them to work safely and transport their passengers as safely as possible throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

In response to requests from the licensed trade asking if it is acceptable to install a protective screen in between the rear passenger compartment and the driver, BDC Licensing Authority are happy to permit, as a temporary measure, the installation of a protective screen.

The Council is aware that there are a number of protective screen options on the market which are not expensive to purchase. These when fitted, may give peace of mind to the driver and customer alike during this health crisis. It is hoped that by approving such low cost **temporary** measures drivers will be able to choose to purchase these screen protectors if they so wish. This may provide at least some reassurance that they can continue to work but in a safer working environment.”

You must tell us if you are installing a protective screen

If you wish to fit a temporary protective screen in your vehicle, you must first:

1. Get confirmation from your insurance company that your insurance is still valid if you fit a protective screen. You will need to be able to supply the make and type of screen when speaking to them.
2. Tell us that you are planning to fit a protective screen by emailing the temporary Screen request form to licensing@blaby.gov.uk and include:
 - Written/email confirmation from your insurance company that your insurance is still valid with this screen
 - Completed the agreement, on the request form, to remove the protective screen in less than 21 days after social distancing restriction relating to COVID-19 have been removed.

Installing your temporary protective screen - what you must do

While you are allowed to install a temporary protective screen in your car (**in-between the rear passenger compartment and the driver only**) you must ensure that the protective screen will:

- not be permanently installed in the vehicle
- not have a solid frame to the screen;
- only be fitted with either Velcro, adhesive fastenings or straps (which can be removed from the vehicle when the screens are no longer allowed)
- be fitted in such a way so as not to affect the structural integrity of the vehicle, or interfere with any manufacturer fitted safety equipment e.g. air bags
- not wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear cabin area.
- be disinfected regularly in a way that does not put the person cleaning it at risk – you may need to look at carrying out a risk assessment for this to show you have taken into consideration the possible risks.

The screen used must be clear and transparent and can only be fitted behind both front seats, creating a partition between the front and back area of the vehicle. The screen would need to be sufficiently strong to be safe however demonstrate a degree of flexibility, for example polycarbonate. Materials such as plastic sheeting, shower curtains, Clingfilm, glass etc. would not be acceptable.