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INTRODUCTION OF MID-YEAR SAFETY INSPECTIONS

When the PCO first informed the taxi trade that the licensing inspections would be out sourced to SGS, it was also stated that a mid year inspection would be introduced. All vehicles licensed from 2nd April 2007 are required to undergo this mid year inspection and PCO Notice 27/07 has been issued by Alan Matthews, Head of Projects and Development, detailing the arrangements.

The requirement for London taxis to undergo a mid-year safety inspection is set out in article 14(o) of the London Cab Order 1934 (as amended by the London Cab Order 2007). Licensees will receive a letter from SGS informing them when their vehicle is approaching the time for its mid-year inspection. The letter will confirm that the vehicle should be presented for its inspection within a period of 30 days before, or thirty days after the six month anniversary of its licence (at a time and SGS inspection centre confirmed by the licensee). It will also provide details about how to arrange an appointment, details of the inspection to help licensees pass first time; and give advice about what to do in the event of a pass or fail.

Up until April 2008, vehicles presented for their mid-year inspection will not, as a matter of routine, be subject to Stage 4, which is the ramp inspection component.

During this initial start up period, however, SGS will be requested to randomly sample 10% of mid-year inspections for the ramp component. From April 2008, all vehicles presented for mid-year inspections will be subjected to the full scope of the inspection. Both the PCO and SGS are keen to ensure the successful introduction of the mid-year inspection. If you are a vehicle owner or vehicle presenter who might be directly affected during the transitional period or if you require further information about this Notice, you can contact the Taxi Delivery and Contract Management Team on 020 7126 1638.



'BIENVENUTO' TO BRITISH STYLE ICON



Distinctive London black cabs are set to turn heads in Milan. La Dolce Vita is awaiting a dozen London cabs being shipped out to the Italian city of Milan.

LTI Vehicles received the order from an Italian firm keen to join the growing number of countries that have fallen in love with the latest model, the TX4.

Nigel Walters, Overseas Operations Coordinator for LTI Vehicles, said: "The TX4 has an Italian engine so we have had a lot of interest from Italy. It is a unique vehicle, in both shape and purpose. Everyone recognises it and it has always attracted a lot of interest. I was at a motor show in Bologna and it attracted a lot of attention from both the Italians and the foreign journalists. Hopefully this is the first of many batches to Italy and we hope this develops into a long-term and fruitful partnership."

The vehicles have all been painted white because it is the official colour of taxis in Italy and they are being sold through Milan's Lamborghini dealership. So far the TX4 has been exported to a host of countries including Abu Dhabi, China, Trinidad and Tobago, the Philippines and Hungary.

