

NEW ACT GETS ROYAL ASSENT

On 22nd May 2008, The Transport for London Act 2008 received Royal Assent. Part 3 of the Act makes a number of provisions with regard to London taxis as well as private hire vehicles. Unless otherwise stated, the provisions will come into force on 22 July 2008.

Sections 9 and 10 provide TfL with the power to designate directional taxi ranks and rest ranks for drivers. The consultation procedures and formal processes for designating, suspending or revoking these ranks will be the same as the well-established processes for conventional ranks. Section 11 amends the London Hackney Carriages Act 1843 by replacing the term 'metal ticket' in respect of taxi driver's badges with the term 'badge'. Section 12 amends section 16 of the 1843 Act to prevent TfL disclosing the address of the holder of a cab licence to any person unless it appears to TfL that that person has sufficient reason for requiring that information.

Section 13 changes the sum specified in section 19 of the 1843 Act that TfL can charge for a replacement badge from 15p to "a sum as TfL shall consider reasonable". From 22 July 2008, until further notice, no charge will be made for a replacement taxi driver's badge. Section 14 amends section 38 of the 1843 Act by increasing the time limit for making complaints for cab driving offences from 7 to 28 days. Section 15 amends the London Cab and Stage Carriage Act 1907 by allowing a taxi driver and passenger to agree in advance a fare for a journey starting within, but ending outside, London. In the absence of such agreement the fare payable must be that on the taxi meter. The PCO advises taxi drivers accepting fares from Heathrow Airport to take particular notice of this provision.

Section 16 amends section 2 of the London Hackney Carriages Act 1853 to allow TfL to serve an unfit notice on the driver as well as the proprietor of a cab found to be unfit preventing the cab being used until it is repaired. An unfit notice means that, with immediate effect, the vehicle cannot be used for hire and reward purposes until the notice is cleared. If the vehicle is used in contravention of the notice, then the vehicle licence can be suspended.

Sections 17 to 22 and Schedules 1 and 2 provide for the introduction of a regime for fixed penalties for certain offences relating to London taxis (failure to wear or to produce badge; failure to produce copy of licence; plying outside licensed area; carrying excess passengers; failure to attend cab at cab standing) with power for the Secretary of State to add further offences. This provision will be enacted on a date to be determined by TfL. Further details will be published by TfL prior to any commencement date.



**Public Carriage
Office**

LUCKY PRIZEWINNER HAILS THE BLACK CAB COLLECTION

As part of their 60th anniversary celebrations, LTI Vehicles recently ran a competition in Taxi Globe with the lucky prize winners scooping prizes from The Black Cab Collection. LTI Vehicles had recently decided to expand the range of gifts available from the collection, which includes branded clothing, pens, mugs and of course model taxis. With something to suit everyone in the collection it is not only taxi drivers and their families who are buying the memorabilia. To see more of the collection for yourself simply visit www.blackcabgifts.co.uk where you will find that ordering the products featured is simple; the gifts are in stock and available for immediate delivery. The collection is also available from all LTI Vehicles main dealers such as M&O London. New products and special offers

will be added regularly so mark the site as one of your favourites. If your passengers are looking for unique gifts with taxi branding, tell them where to log on.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Winner - S D Johnson

2 Runners up - Alan Green and Alexandra Shepherd



THE END IS NIGH FOR SANDWICH BOARDS

Westminster Council is set to ban advertising on "sandwich boards" which are often seen in the West End. Some have been around for many years, such as those announcing "The End is Nigh", but starting in August, anyone using a board to advertise their wares or religious message will face fines of up to £2,500.

Daniel Astaire, a Westminster councillor, said that "cheap and ugly" signs were blighting areas such as Oxford Street and Covent Garden. "This is a world-class city, not a junk yard," he said. "No one wants to fight their way past neon-coloured makeshift signs."