

Joanna Wood

From: P90 - Birchall, Kevin <KevinBirchall@lancsfirerescue.org.uk>
Sent: 31 May 2017 16:14
To: Phil Morton
Subject: RE: Fire extinguishers in Taxis

Phil,

I can't remember whether I replied to this email.

Whilst it isn't in our purview, if you applied the same logic as the fire safety order you could argue that the taxi driver is the 'responsible person' as they're the one in control of the vehicle and equally you could argue that a fare paying passenger is a 'relevant person' as they are legitimately in the vehicle. Whilst I understand the comment – "Our trade argue the fact that they are not fire fighters and quote the strap line , "get out, call us out", we do not expect business owners to perform firefighting operations, although we do expect them to provide equipment that can be used to effect an escape from the building.

The same logic could say that operators should be required to provide equipment to effect a safe escape from the vehicle in the case of fire. Once this was done, we would not expect them to jeopardise their own safety in order to tackle a fire.

Hope this makes sense. Happy to discuss at any time.

Regards,

Kev Birchall TIFireE
Business Safety Advisor
(01254) 262721
Mob: 07795840013

From: Phil Morton [mailto:PhilMorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 May 2017 11:48
To: P90 - Birchall, Kevin
Subject: RE: Fire extinguishers in Taxis

Hi Kevin.

Thanks for that, you are right, it is complex to say the least.

Our trade argue the fact that they are not fire fighters and quote the strap line , "get out, call us out".

We are not asking them to tackle major engine fires, but to be able to deal with small fires which could easily be dealt with by a fire extinguisher designed for use in a vehicle.

Would that be a stance that you would support and what are "relevant persons"

Thanks

Phil

Phil Morton
Licensing Manager
Rossendale BC
01706252442
philmorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk

From: P90 - Birchall, Kevin [<mailto:KevinBirchall@lancsfirerescue.org.uk>]
Sent: 30 May 2017 11:37
To: Phil Morton
Subject: RE: Fire extinguishers in Taxis

Phil,

An interesting question indeed. In brief, the Fire Safety Order does not apply to:

An aircraft, locomotive or rolling stock, trailer or semi-trailer used as a means of transport or a vehicle for which a licence is in force under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994(b) or a vehicle exempted from duty under that Act;

I suppose there's a technical question underlying this. Does the Vehicle Excise license only apply to the vehicle when it's being driven to and from a fayre? If so, there's a possibility that the act applies. If the VEL applies the whole time, then it certainly doesn't.

This doesn't stop you from including it as license condition, using the logic that fayre paying passengers are 'relevant persons' and the operator has a duty to ensure that they can escape from the vehicle in the case of fire – that would be the direction I'd be coming from.

Hope this helps.

Regards,

Kev Birchall TIFireE
Business Safety Advisor
(01254) 262721
Mob: 07795840013

From: Phil Morton [<mailto:PhilMorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 30 May 2017 09:15
To: P90 - Birchall, Kevin
Subject: RE: Fire extinguishers in Taxis

Thanks Kevin

Regards

Phil

From: P90 - Birchall, Kevin [<mailto:KevinBirchall@lancsfirerescue.org.uk>]
Sent: 26 May 2017 18:37

To: Phil Morton
Subject: Re: Fire extinguishers in Taxis

Phil,

It's an extremely interesting question.

Sorry for the slow response. We've had a manic day.

I'll research this for you and get back as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Kevin Birchall TIFireE
Business Safety Adviser
07795840013
Sent from my iPhone

On 26 May 2017, at 12:17, Phil Morton <PhilMorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Kevin.
I wonder if you would be able to assist.

We are reviewing our taxi licensing policies, and one of the items under discussion is the need for fire extinguishers.

Do you know if there is any specific legislation covering this and are they a legal requirement?

If not would you be able to provide advice on whether we should or should not include them?

Thanks for your help

regards

Phil Morton
Licensing Manager
Rossendale BC
01706252442
philmorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk

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GET OUT - STAY OUT - CALL THE FIRE SERVICE OUT

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