



Use of Horn

Taxi Compliance Officer Information Sheet 22

Like most road traffic law, the use of horns in vehicles is quite detailed. The following is some information for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers.

What is the law about horns ?

The law requires a horn to be fitted to Licensed Vehicles (but not horse drawn Hackney Carriages) which must be a single tone. Vehicle theft alarm horns can be a siren or similar, but must not sound for more than 5 minutes. The horn must work.

- Regulation 37 Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.

“Use only while your vehicle is moving and you need to warn other road users of your presence. Never sound your horn aggressively”

- Highway Code Rule 112

A horn should not be used on a moving vehicle on a restricted road (basically a road that has street lights and a 30mph limit) between the times of 2330hrs and 0700hrs.

A horn must not be used when stationary on a road, at any time, other than at times of danger due to another moving vehicle on or near the road

- Regulation 99 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 – fixed penalty of £50

Can I use my horn to let a customer know I've arrived to pick them up ?

No. As well as the law above, many Councils specifically cover this point. For example :

- Not operate the vehicle horn for the purpose of signaling to the hirer that the vehicle has arrived – South Gloucestershire Council Private Hire Driver conditions 2g

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This is one of a series of information sheets produced for the benefit of Driver, Vehicle and Operator licence holders by Police Constable 4645 Patrick QUINTON, Taxi Compliance Officer, The Bridewell Police Station, Bristol, BS1 2AA

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