

Finally ...

'The solution to the pollution'

Some helpful info from The PCO that apply sector-wide



Smoke-free England – Extracts from the PCO Notice

On 1 July 2007 **England** became smoke-free. The new law was introduced to protect employees and the public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. From 1 July it became against the law to smoke in virtually all enclosed public places, workplaces and public and work vehicles.

Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

Smoking is now prohibited in all licensed taxis and PHVs by all occupants (including the driver) at all times (including private use).

From 1 July 2007 all **Taxis** and **PHVs** need to display a no-smoking sign in a prominent position in each compartment of the vehicle in which people can be carried.

The sign must show the international no-smoking symbol at least 70mm in diameter.

Given the variety of vehicles licensed as **PHVs** it is not possible to prescribe where no-smoking signs should be located. However, when deciding where to display the signs the following guidelines should be followed:

- Signs must be in a prominent position
- There must be one sign in each compartment of the vehicle in which people can be carried
- The driver's visibility is not impeded
- Signs do not obstruct air bag covers
- Approved no-smoking stickers for both taxis and **PHVs** can be obtained free of charge from the **PCO** or any of the **SGS Vehicle Inspection Centres**.

Smoke-free England – Private Hire Vehicle Operating Centres

If the public have access to your operating centre or it is a place of employment for more than one person the premises will be required to be smoke-free.

Since 1 July 2007 businesses were required to:

- Close indoor smoking rooms
 - Displaying no-smoking signs required by the new law at entrances to buildings and in work vehicles used by more than one person
 - Ensuring that people do not smoke in any enclosed and substantially enclosed areas of your premises
- All smoke-free premises must display a no-smoking sign at every entrance to the premises.

Signs must meet the following requirements:

- Be a minimum of A5 in area (210mm x 148mm)
Display the international no-smoking sign at least 70mm in diameter
- Carry the following words 'No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises'.
No smoking signs, including bilingual versions, can be downloaded and printed or ordered from www.smoke-freeengland.co.uk/resources

Signs can also be ordered from the Smoke-free England information line on 0800 169 1697.

Private Hire Operators who work on their own from home will not be required to make their premises smoke-free but they will be expected to provide a smoke-free environment during licensing compliance inspections.

Smoke-free England – Preventing smoking in a smoke-free place

In the event that someone does smoke in a **Taxi** or **PHV** or at a **PHV Operating Centre**, the person in charge of the vehicle or premises should take reasonable steps to stop it happening.

The following practical steps to deal with such situations are based on **Department for Health** advice:

- Point to the no-smoking signs and ask the person to stop smoking
- Inform them that you would be committing an offence if you allowed them to smoke, and they are breaking the law by smoking in a smoke-free premise or vehicle, and you could both be fined.

If the customer refuses to stop smoking:

You should consider not serving or providing a service to a person who is breaking the smoke-free law. This includes refusing to accept a hiring if the sole reason is that the customer refuses to stop smoking.

Keep a record of where and when the incident took place, the name of the person involved (if possible) and the outcome.

If physical violence is threatened by a person smoking, you should notify or seek assistance from the police.

Local councils will be responsible for enforcing the new law and they will be able to offer information and support to help businesses meet their legal obligations. **The Government's** intention is to create a supportive environment where people are encouraged to comply with the new law.

We had a ball at the Café Royal by Eddie Townson

Private hire turned a corner in June when the **inaugural ball** took place at the **Café Royal** in London and a variety of sponsors and companies came together to celebrate our trade.

Speakers *George Walker* (left), *John Griffin* (centre) and *Ed Thompson* (right) set the tone for a great night.



I wish personally to thank all the sponsors and every one who organised and attended the event.

Not only was the event a great PR exercise for our Industry it was also a great social event in its own right and the fact

that our friends, guests and families all had a great time was a tribute to everyone who helped to organise and promote the ball.

It was even more special for all those involved that the event at the **Café Royal** was such a great success and a fabulous night was had by all.

I am sure we are all looking forward to next year and for those who couldn't make this year for one reason or another put this date in the diary now. **10 May 2008**. To book early contact the event line **08000 232 344** and speak to the organisers *Ian* and *Sandra Simpson*.