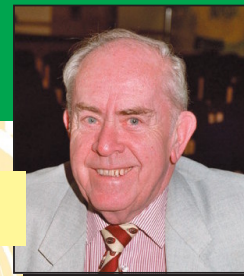


# Talking of Grading...



by **GEOFF WRIGHT**  
(CHIEF GRADING OFFICER)

## ...environmentally conscious...

Whilst some people are still sceptical about the overall projected impact of 'Climate change' there is still much concern about the apparent effects of 'greenhouse gas emissions' especially from vehicles.

Clearly deforestation in third world countries is not helping our environment and replacement tree planting is now something that many countries and for that matter individual organizations are taking a serious overview about.

With the number of **Private Hire Vehicles** licensed in **London** alone heading towards **50,000** and a further **25,000 taxis** in use in the capital, there can be no doubt that **CO2 emissions** and the **annual tonnage** of CO2 produced in our capital is a big topic. Looking **Nationally**, a further **175,000 vehicles** brings the **Taxi & PHV** sector up to a **quarter of a million vehicles**.

The good news is that **Private Hire Vehicles** and **Taxis** actually **reduce carbon emissions** by curtailing car usage, by completing and linking up many journeys between modes of **Public Transport** such as **bus, coach, rail and air**.

Recent figures in **London** have shown that **Licensed PHV's** are **very compliant** to **European Emissions Standards** and it came as a shock to many that **London's PHV's** are '**More Environmentally Friendly** than **London Taxis**' with vehicles being on average '**2 years younger**' than their **London Taxi** counterparts.

A number of 'environmentally conscious' **Licensed Private Hire Operators** have already introduced plans to improve their '**Carbon Footprints**' and have become **ISO 14001:2004 Accredited**.

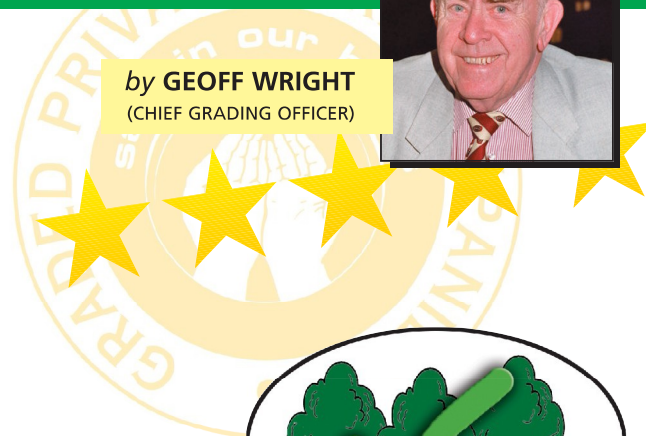
The **LPHCA** has already noticed a considerable changing of our **Member's Fleet Vehicles** to much '**Greener Cars**' a move welcomed by our **Association**. We featured **Platinum Member GLH's** tremendous environmental programme last year in **Edition 38** of **Private Hire News** and in this edition we feature another of our exemplary **Platinum Members** - **DataCars** of **Eltham** who have also become **ISO 14001:2004 Accredited** certified.

Becoming '**Environmentally Friendly**' goes way beyond reducing **CO2 emissions** by vehicles and '**Datacars**' policy looks at **Waste Reduction, Green Purchasing, System Management, Environmental Awareness** as well as '**offsetting the carbon impact**' of the whole business.

**Satellite tracking and route planning** is becoming commonplace and equipment supplied by **Private Hire News** systems partners like **Auriga, Cordic, Excel** and **ROCS** are contributing to more '**Environmentally Efficient**' journeys.

The **LPHCA** is already an '**Environmentally Aware**' organisation however we are not yet compliant to **ISO 14001:2004**. To 'practice what we preach' we have now signed up to get the **UKAS Crown & Tick** accredited certification and **Bernard Hall** will be helping us with our accreditation.

We will also be adding a new symbol to our members listings in the next edition of **Private Hire News** by way of **ISO 14001:2004** and this will be included in future **Assessments** for **Graded Members**.



**DataCars** have also moved onto the internet **Licensing Compliance** system **CabOperator**, where all documentation for **Licensing Management** can be managed in a paperless environment online.

Ongoing dialogue with **TfL** and other **Licensing Authorities**, has been very positive and the **LPHCA** has been in a series of very productive talks with key **Local Authority 'E-Commerce'** I.T. people and **Licensing Project Managers** about **CabOperator**.



The **LPHCA** is delighted that once again the '**Licensed Private Hire Car Industry**' is showing the way and a step in the right direction for all **Member Operators**, particularly the larger concerns, is to **embark on an ISO 14001:2004 programme**.

The **LPHCA** is well placed to offer help and guidance through an exclusive partnership arrangement with **Bernard Hall** a fully qualified expert who is prepared to offer discounted rates of consultancy and assistance to **LPHCA Member Companies**.

As always – **UKAS Crown & Tick ISO Accreditation (or acceptable European Government equivalent)** is required and once obtained this will enable **Accredited Certificated Companies** to enjoy an improved working relationship with work providers, who more than ever, are now looking to place their **Private Hire** procurement and requirements with **Licensed Operators** who are '**Environmentally Responsible**'.

Please call the office on **07956 329288** for further information.