DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VEHICLE FOR HIRE

TAXICAB VEHICLE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mechanical Inspections of Taxicabs

All taxicabs shall be inspected bi-annually by a certified garage selected by the City. All mechanical inspections shall be valid for sixty (60) days prior to their required submission date to the License Section.

Taxicab Owner License

A. Distribution of Taxicab Owner Licenses:

1. Thirty (30) licenses will be allocated to the three taxicab companies owning twenty-five or more taxicabs as of March 1, 1997.
2. Each company will be eligible to license ten (10) additional vehicles. Five licenses will be available to them during the first sixty-day period, and five during the second sixty-day period.
3. Any license not issued during the first sixty-day period shall not be added to the next group of five available licenses.
4. Twenty (20) taxicab owner licenses will be made available to all taxicab drivers licensed as of February 1, 1997. The licenses will be distributed through a computerized lottery system in the License Section.
5. Seventeen (17) taxicab owner licenses will be made available to all taxicab owners owning less than twenty-five taxicabs. The licenses will be distributed through a computerized lottery system in the License Section.
6. All unissued licenses will be retained by the City and will be distributed to the general public, including taxicab owners and drivers, through a computerized lottery system.

B. Application for Taxicab Owner Licenses:

1. All applicants must apply in person at the License Section-South Entrance, 750 Piedmont Rd Columbus, Ohio 43224.
2. The License Section will provide appropriate written notice of the dates and times applications will be accepted.

3. Upon approval of the application, applicants will be provided with specific dates the lottery will be conducted and also specific written procedures and requirements for licensing.

C. Eligibility, Terms, and Conditions:

1. Taxicab Owners owning twenty-five (25) or more taxicabs are eligible to license their allotted number of vehicles upon approval of their application.
2. All other applicants become eligible to license one taxicab each by being randomly selected through the computerized lottery system.
3. Eligible applicants to license a taxicab will be mailed a written "Notice of Eligibility", which shall expire sixty days from the date of the notification letter. The date of expiration will be indicated on the notice. Under no circumstances, will the sixty-day licensing requirement be extended.
4. Applicants are required to license a vehicle as a taxicab prior to expiration of their Notice of Eligibility.
5. All licenses not issued during the required time period will be retained by the City and shall become available to the general public, including taxicab owners and taxicab drivers, through a computerized lottery system at the end of the sixty days of eligibility.

D. Computerized Lottery System:

1. All taxicab owners and drivers, except owners of twenty-five (25) or more taxicabs, will be awarded the opportunity to license a taxicab through a computerized lottery system.
2. A lottery shall be conducted only once exclusively for all taxicab owners of less than twenty-five taxicabs.
3. A lottery shall be conducted only once exclusively for all taxicab drivers licensed as of February 1, 1997.
4. If all sixty-seven (67) licenses are not issued, a lottery for the general public, including taxicab owners and taxicab drivers, shall be conducted every sixty-five days after the first lottery until all sixty-seven (67) available licenses are issued.
5. Applicants whose applications have been approved will be assigned a registration number issued by the computer.
6. Applicants will be given the date and time the lottery will be conducted at the time they receive their registration number.
7. The computer will randomly select a single, different registration number for each of the available licenses.
8. Lottery results will be sent to Yellow Cab, Northway Cab, and the Independent Taxicab Association (ITAC) for posting. Lottery results will also be posted in the office of the License Section.
9. Should there be more licenses available in the two exclusive lotteries for taxicab owners and drivers, no lottery shall be conducted. All applicants will be automatically eligible to

license one taxicab. The remaining licenses shall become available to the general public, including taxicab owners and taxicab drivers, through a computerized lottery system at the end of the 60 days of eligibility.

E. Transferability: – Amended July, 1998

1. These sixty-seven (67) licenses shall not be transferred from one owner to another person or entity for a period of three (3) years from the date of issuance, except in the event of the death of the owner.
2. Any license transferred during this three (3) year period shall not be transferable to another person or entity for a period of three (3) years from the date of transfer, except in the event of the death of the owner.

Published: July 5, 1997

Effective: July 20, 1997

Taxicab Vehicle Age Limits

No Taxicab Owner's License shall be issued, transferred or renewed after January 1, 2013, to any vehicle that is older than eleven (11) vehicle years as determined by the Vehicle Identification Number.

No Taxicab Owner's License shall be issued, transferred or renewed after January 1, 2014, to any vehicle that is older than ten (10) vehicle years as determined by the Vehicle Identification Number.

No Taxicab Owner's License shall be issued, transferred or renewed after January 1, 2015, to any vehicle that is older than nine (9) vehicle years as determined by the Vehicle Identification Number.

No Taxicab Owner's License shall be issued, transferred or renewed after January 1, 2016, to any vehicle that is older than eight (8) vehicle years as determined by the Vehicle Identification Number.

Advertising

1. No passenger vehicle for hire shall display any advertising assemblies other than specifically by Rule & Regulations.
2. Each passenger vehicle for hire may display one advertising assembly. The advertising assembly may only be mounted on the top of the vehicle roof. All advertising assemblies must be approved in advance by the License Section Manager prior to mounting on any passenger vehicle for hire. In reviewing advertising assemblies for approval, the License Section Manager shall approve only those advertising assemblies that:

a. Do not obscure any required vehicle markings, including the color scheme.

b. Do not add more than 18 inches to the overall height of the vehicle.

c. Do not extend beyond the top of the front windshield or rear window.

d. Are securely mounted to the top of the vehicle and lighting cannot exceed 300 candle power.

e. Advertising Assemblies do not present a safety issue to the riding public or driver.

f. Advertising Assemblies does not interfere or alter the vehicle's safety features.

Published: August 04, 2012

Effective: August 18, 2012

Taxicab Vehicle Transfer Restrictions

No Taxicab Owner's License for New Licensed Vehicles or Vehicle to Vehicle transfers after January 1, 2013, will not be granted to any vehicle;

1. That is older than 6 years as determined by the Vehicle Identification Number.
2. With over 200,000 miles.
3. Vehicle titled with Mileage Discrepancy.
4. Vehicle titled as Rebuilt Salvage.

Published: November 03, 2012

Effective: November 17, 2012

Taxi Driver Standards

Appearance:

1. Clothing to be clean and in good repair.
2. Long pants or skirts. No jeans, shorts or exercise attire.
3. Collared shirts with sleeves.
4. Shoes and socks must be worn. No open toed shoes.
5. Hygienically clean; clean shaven, except a beard or mustache may be worn, if groomed and neatly trimmed.
6. No ball caps.

Conduct:

1. Courteous.
2. Geographic familiarity with Franklin County.

3. Per Columbus City Code 715.02 and Ohio Revised Code 3794, Smoking is prohibited in the vehicle at any time.
4. No playing of radio, tape player, or other similar device without passenger consent.
5. Driver must maintain a current franklin county map.

Published: December 08, 2012

Effective: December 22, 2012

<u>Vehicle for Hire Standards</u>

Seats:

1. Must be firmly fixed and secure.
2. Clear of all materials, litter and debris.
3. No exposed wire or sharp edges either from metal or vinyl.
4. No broken springs, sagging or horizontal slippage.
5. Upholstery must be clean with no offensive odors.
6. Upholstery will have no holes or tears on the seat surfaces or rear of front seats visible to rear passengers.
7. Seat covers must be permanently affixed to seat of vehicle. No blankets or temporary coverings.
8. Seat belts and shoulder straps will be clean and operable.

Floors:

1. Covering materials will be secure and free of rips and folds.
2. Mat and carpet will have a clean appearance.
3. Floors will be clear and free of any objects.

Other interior:

1. No loose objects or externally mounted speakers on rear seat deck.
2. No decorations or other objects permitted to hang from mirror or other mounted fixtures.
3. Dashboards will be secure, clean and neat in appearance with no loose objects.
4. Visors will be free of holes or tears, clean and intact, with no taped repairs. Visors will match vehicle's interior as nearly as possible.
5. Headliner will be free of tears, rips and will be secured to the ceiling, not sagging or loose in any place.
6. Headrests will be clean.

Body:

1. Clean appearance.

2. Free of rust, cracks or other damage visible upon casual inspection. Any cited rust or damage will be repaired within 14 days of citation and re-inspected for compliance.
3. Paint in good condition showing no oxidation or chipping. Touch-up paint must match existing paint and blend smoothly.
4. Grills will have a neat appearance.
5. No torn, wrinkled, faded or missing lettering, striping or decals.
6. Four matching hubcaps are required.
7. No broken or cracked lights or lenses.
8. All molding, mirrors and antennas must be securely attached and in good condition.
9. Bumpers must be properly attached and in good condition with no holes and free of unapproved stickers and decals.
10. Cruise lights must be securely attached, free of tape, free of damage and with no missing letters.

Trunks:

1. No flammable liquid or materials.
2. Clean and neat.
3. Must have a protective floor covering.
4. Tools must be in an acceptable container.
5. Free of materials limiting space for luggage.
6. Trunk latch must be operable.

Tires:

1. Center tread must have a minimum tread of 2/32” and be free of all cuts or breaks. No bald spots.
2. Tires must be inflated to rated standard.

Windows:

1. No cracked or broken windows.
2. Clean inside and out.
3. Free of all stickers and decals except those required by License Section.
4. Tinted windows must be in compliance with state law requirements.
5. All windows must be operable.
6. Must be equipped with two operable windshield wipers, non-streaking blades and functional windshield washing system.

Doors:

1. Inside and outside door locks and handles must be fully operational and intact.
2. Handles, knobs and armrest must be fully operational and intact.

3. Door panels must be clean, intact with no tears and match vehicle interior.
4. Door hinges and stops must function properly and securely.
5. Door seals and gaskets must be intact.

Miscellaneous:

1. Taxicab and livery owners have 30 days to produce vehicle title, but must show proof of purchase prior to issuance of license.
2. Scanners are not permitted in vehicles.
3. Peddling from vehicle is prohibited.
4. Transfer of all Vehicles for Hire Owner Licenses from vehicle to vehicle does not need prior board approval.
5. Taxicab identification numbers may not be transferred to other vehicles currently licensed as taxicabs.
6. Vehicles must be equipped with an operable heater and air conditioner, and must be used when transporting passengers.
7. Taxicab Owners must notify the License Section when there is a change in the mode of dispatching or a change in the dispatcher.

Published: December 08, 2012

Effective: December 22, 2012

Soiled Interior Fee

In the event that a City of Columbus Licensed Vehicle for Hire's interior is soiled with bodily fluids or solids by an inebriated passenger, a $50.00 clean-up fee may be added to the trip fare.

Notice of this fee must be posted in a location inside the vehicle that is plainly visible to the passengers and the taxicab driver must verbally advise the inebriated passenger of such fee and point out the posted notice prior to the beginning of the fare.

Exemptions

1. Children or sober riders that are ill or become sick.
2. Child birth.

Published: December 13, 2013

Effective: December 28, 2013

Professional Taxi Drivers License:

Qualifications for the Professional Driver's License:

1. 5 years as a licensed City of Columbus Taxi Driver
2. Successful completion of CTA Training Class

3. 2 or less points on official drivers abstract
4. A written reference from employer - if applicable
5. No unresolved complaints with the City of Columbus

This is a one (1) year license. To maintain license, Professional Taxi Drivers must:

1. Present official drivers abstract to the License Section annually
2. Complete the BCI background check at the License Section annually
3. Present a CTA certification to the License Section annually

Published: September 5, 2015

Effective: September 19, 2015