

CLERK FILE No. 306289

Clerk File No. 306289
Department of Finance revised Director Rules amending Chapter
6.310 "Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles".

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Honorable President

The _____
to which was referred this file, respectfully reports that the same was _____ and the

Date Filed with Clerk: July 2, 2003

Received by: Margaret Carter
City Clerk Staff

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

Referred	To
Referred	To
Referred	To
Reported	Disposition
Re-referred	To
Reported	Disposition

Lined area for handwritten notes and signatures.



City of Seattle

Paul Schell, Mayor

Department of Finance

Dwight D. Dively, Director

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE

01 MAR -7 PM 12:13

CITY CLERK

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 7, 2001

From: Craig Leisy, Manager
Consumer Affairs Unit *Craig Leisy*

To: Judith Pippin, City Clerk

Subject: **FILING DIRECTOR RULES - EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2001**

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE
03 JUN 22 AM 9:57
CITY CLERK

Please file the attached copy of the revised Director Rules that implement requirements contained in Ordinance 119872, effective April 15, 2000, which amended Chapter 6.310 "Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles" in the Seattle Municipal Code. Two copies of the revised Rules are provided with this memorandum.

An Affidavit of Publication for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing and Opportunity to Comment is attached. The Notice was published on February 9, 2001 in the *Daily Journal of Commerce*. The required public hearing was held on February 27, 2001.

If I can provide any additional information, please contact me at 386-1296.

CAL:cal
A:tachments

H: CityClerkRuleFiling 3-7-2001.doc

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.



NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

STATE OF WASHINGTON - KING COUNTY

--SS.

127522

No. RULEMAKING/H

CITY OF SEATTLE:CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:TAXICAB/FOR-HIRE

was published on

02/09/01

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$0.00, which amount has been paid in full.

[Signature]
Subscribed and sworn to before me on

02/09/01

Melissa M. Paquet
Notary public for the State of Washington
residing in Seattle



Affidavit of Publication

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle
**NOTICE OF PROPOSED
PUBLIC HEARING AND
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

The Finance Director acting under the authority of Chapters 8.02 and 8.113 of the Seattle Municipal Code, proposes to revise the rules pertaining to business and for-hire vehicles. The revised rules implement requirements contained in Ordinance No. 118872, passed March 28, 2000, which amended Chapter 8.110 of the Code and For-Hire Vehicles. The revised rules are proposed to become effective on April 1, 2001.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT
The Finance Department has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed revised rules from 7:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2001** in the 10th Floor Conference Room of the Seattle Municipal Building at 300 South Dearborn Street.

All interested persons are invited to attend, state, voice, or express in regard to the proposed revised rules, orally at the hearing, or in writing at or before the hearing. Written comments should be mailed or delivered to:

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
ATTN: TRANG LEUY, MANAGER
CONSUMER AFFAIRS UNIT, 300
SOUTH DEARBORN STREET, SEAT-
TLE, WASHINGTON 98104.**

The public may inspect a copy of the proposed revised rules at the Consumer Affairs Unit, 300 South Dearborn Street between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. If you would like a copy of the proposed revised rules please contact the Consumer Affairs Unit at: (206) 465-1288, fax: (206) 465-1129, email: seattle.consumer@dnr.seattle.wa.gov, or mail a request to the address shown above.

Dated: January 30, 2001.
DWIGHT D. DUEVELY
Director, Department of Finance.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, February 9, 2001. (SXL1708627)

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

City of Seattle
Finance Department
Consumer Affairs Unit

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules
[Effective Date: April 1, 2001]



April 1, 2001

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules

Authority. These rules are adopted pursuant to Section 6.310.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) and are intended to implement Ordinance 118341 and Ordinance 119872. Rules effective January 1, 1997 are amended. These amended rules will become effective April 1, 2001.

Contents. These rules are organized by: (1) taxicab associations and for-hire vehicle operators, (2) taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, and (3) for-hire drivers like the Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles Code in Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code. The rule numbers generally correspond with requirements in the Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles Code.

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
R-6.310.110	Definitions	2
R-6.310.130A	Operating a Taxicab or For-Hire Vehicle	3
Taxicab Associations and For-Hire Vehicle Operators		
R-6.310.200.A(3)	Vehicle Color Scheme	4
R-6.310.200.A(6)	Vehicle Trade Name and Number	4
R-6.310.230.A(8)	Quarterly Service Information Report	5
R-6.310.230A(8)(f)	Monthly Summary of Vehicle Collision Reports	5
R-6.310.230.A(9)	Passenger Complaint Resolution	5
R-6.310.300.C(5)	Evidence of Vehicle Insurance	6
Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles		
R-6.310.320.C(1)(b)	Vehicle Age	6
R-6.310.320.E	Certificate of Safety, Maintenance Records	6
R-6.310.320.G	Vehicle Safety Inspections	7
R-6.310.320.I	Rate Information	10
R-6.310.320.K	Taximeter Tests	10
R-6.310.320.L	Consumer Information	10
R-6.310.320.N	Two-Way Communications	11
R-6.310.320.O	Vehicle Type and Size and Advertisements	11
R-6.310.340	Vehicle License Transfer	12
R-6.310.360.C	Retired Vehicle	12
For-Hire Drivers		
R-6.310.410	Physician's Certificate	12
R-6.310.420.A	Written and Oral Examination	14
R-6.310.460.E	Flat Rate to Airport	14
R-6.310.460.F	Trip Sheets	15

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

R-6.310.465.A	Taxicab Driver Uniform	15
R-6.310.465.H	Passenger Receipts	15
R-6.310.465.L	Designation of Non-Smoking Vehicles	15
R-6.310.465.M	Payment of Fares	16

R-6.310.110 Definitions.

1. "**Certificate of Safety**" means a document signed by an approved mechanic certifying that a particular taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets all vehicle safety standards set forth in Chapter 6.310 and in rules adopted pursuant to that chapter [SMC 6.310.110.D]
2. "**Change of equipment**" means replacement of a vehicle licensed as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle within the City of Seattle.
3. "**Director**" means the Director of the Department of Finance for the City of Seattle, or any successor department, and the Director's authorized designees. [SMC 6.310.110.H]
4. "**For-hire driver's license**" means a regulatory license issued by the Director to any person to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle including a lease driver or owner/driver. The license includes a photograph of the driver and it expires annually on the anniversary of the application date. King County issues these licenses to Seattle drivers under a cooperative agreement signed in 1995.
5. "**Insurance policy declarations**" means a document from an admitted carrier in the State of Washington that provides proof of compliance with liability coverage requirements in Chapter 46.72 of the Revised Code of Washington and underinsured motorist coverage requirements in Section 6.310.300.C(6) of the Seattle Municipal Code. [SMC 6.310.300.C(5)]
6. "**Monetary penalties**" mean monetary (civil) penalties assessed by the Director against a for-hire driver, taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner, and/or taxicab association for violations of Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC). [SMC 6.310.605.C]
7. "**Notice of Complaint**" means a document prepared by the Director and provided to a taxicab association representative or for-hire vehicle operator that describes a passenger complaint and requires a written response to the passenger. [SMC 6.310.710]
8. "**Notice of Violation**" means a document issued by the Director to notify a for-hire driver, taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner and/or taxicab association representative, as appropriate, of violation(s) of Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code. [SMC 6.310.610.C]
9. "**Penalty points**" mean penalty points assessed by the Director against a taxicab association for violation(s) of Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) by for-hire drivers operating taxicabs and/or taxicab owners affiliated with the taxicab association or for violation(s) by the taxicab association.
10. "**Physician's Certificate**" means a document signed by a physician licensed to practice in the State of Washington that certifies a license applicant's fitness to perform the duties of a for-hire driver. [SMC 6.310.410]
11. "**Prearranged trip**" means a paid trip by a for-hire vehicle that was requested by the passenger by contacting the business office of the for-hire vehicle operator.
12. "**Rate filing**" means a document submitted by a for-hire vehicle operator or taxicab association representative at vehicle license renewal specifying all special and contract rates

- charged by taxicabs affiliated with the taxicab association. [SMC 6.310.200.A(7) and 6.310.530.E(3)]
13. **"Service Information Report"** means a quarterly report submitted by the for-hire vehicle operator or taxicab association representative to the Director that summarizes service requests, vehicle operating hours and paid miles, and passenger complaints. [SMC 6.310.230.A(8)]
 14. **"Summary suspension"** means suspension of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license by the Director for violation(s) of safety provisions in Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC). This action is taken when, in the determination of the Director, there exists a clear, substantial, and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property. [SMC 6.310.610.A]]
 15. **"Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license"** means a regulatory license issued by the Director under Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to a person that authorizes the person to operate a specific vehicle as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle within the City of Seattle.
 16. **"Taximeter test"** means a test of a taximeter conducted by the Director using procedures and specifications contained in Handbook 44 *Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices* (2000), as amended, published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). All taximeters placed into service after July 5, 1997 must have a Certificate of Conformance (CC) issued by the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) proving compliance with the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). (Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 16-664)
 17. **"Test Station"** means the City of Seattle's taxicab and for-hire vehicle inspection facility located at 805 South Dearborn Street in Seattle. Taxicab and for-hire vehicle safety inspections and taximeter tests are performed at the Test Station by appointment.
 18. **"Vehicle model year"** means the vehicle model year which appears on the vehicle registration issued by the State of Washington.
 19. **"Vehicle safety inspection"** means an inspection by the Director to determine whether all taxicab or for-hire vehicle equipment is working properly. This inspection also includes vehicle appearance, markings and consumer information displays. Vehicle safety inspections are conducted at least once per year and more frequently depending upon the violation history of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

R-6.310.130A Operating a Taxicab or For-Hire Vehicle.

1. A monetary penalty shall be issued to a for-hire driver for violations of any for-hire driver requirements while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.
2. A for-hire driver shall be considered to be "operating" a taxicab or for-hire vehicle if:
 - a. there is a passenger in the vehicles; or
 - b. the taxicab is parked in a taxi zone; or
 - c. the taximeter is engaged; or
 - d. the office dispatch records show that the vehicle had been dispatched; or
 - e. the taxicab top light is illuminated; or
 - f. the trip sheet shows that the vehicle has started a shift and there is no entry for ending a shift; or
 - g. the for-hire driver has offered transportation services to a passenger.

Taxicab Associations and For-Hire Vehicle Operators

R-6.310.200.A(3) Vehicle Color Scheme.

The color scheme for all taxicabs affiliated with a taxicab association must be identical and conform with sample color chips **submitted to the Director for approval.**

1. In the event that a **stripe** is a component of the vehicle color scheme, it shall run the full length of the vehicle and shall not be less than three (3) inches in width. In no event shall a stripe be the sole difference between color schemes.
2. The taxicab **association logo**, if any, shall be in a color which contrasts to the portion of the vehicle where the logo is placed. In no event shall the logo be the sole difference between color schemes.
3. The color scheme and logo must be permanently affixed to the vehicle.

R-6.310.200.A(6) Vehicle Trade Name and Number.

The **Director shall assign a number to each taxicab** that is the same as the number of the metal taxicab license plate issued by the Director.

1. The taxicab number shall be **placed on the vehicle in the following locations:**
 - a. On the front portion of the vehicle hood in a position reasonably visible to a person standing in front of the taxicab.
 - b. On the rear portion of the vehicle's trunk lid in a position reasonably visible to a person standing to the rear of the taxicab.
 - c. On both left and right vehicle rear roof posts.
 - d. If the vehicle design does not permit placement of the taxicab number in these locations, the Director shall designate alternative locations.
 - e. The taxicab number shall be in a color that contrasts with the portion of the vehicle where it is placed.
2. The **Director shall approve the taxicab's trade name used by a taxicab association.** The trade name shall be permanently affixed to both front doors of the vehicle. The trade name shall be in a color that contrasts with the portion of the vehicle where it is placed. The trade name shall be centered on the upper one third (1/3) of the doors so that it is reasonably visible to a person at the side of the taxicab.
3. The taxicab trade name and the taxicab number shall use lettering and numbers a minimum of **four (4) inches in height** with the width proportional.
4. The taxicab association telephone number shall be permanently affixed on each side of the taxicab. The taxicab association telephone number shall use numbers a minimum of two and one half (2-1/2) inches in height with the width proportional.
5. A for-hire vehicle must display the trade name, used by the for-hire vehicle operator, on the front doors in the same manner as prescribed for taxicabs.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

R-6.310.230.A(8) Quarterly Service Information Report.

1. Quarterly, not later than thirty (30) days after the end of the quarter, the taxicab association representative shall submit a Service Information Report to the Director.
2. The contents of the Service Information Report shall include: paid trips, paid miles, affiliated taxicabs, average operating hours per week, and passenger complaints by category as specified in SMC 6.310.230.A(8).

R-6.310.230.A(8)(f) Monthly Summary of Vehicle Collision Reports.

1. Monthly, not later than forty-five (45) days after the end of the month reported on, the taxicab association representative shall submit a monthly summary of vehicle collision reports to the Director on forms provided.
2. The contents of the Monthly Summary of Vehicle Collision Reports shall include: the taxicab name and number, for-hire driver name, for-hire driver license number, collision date, collision location, injuries, estimated cost to repair the taxicab, collision fault, and action of taxicab when collision occurred.
3. The Monthly Summary of Vehicle Collision Reports shall list all collisions required to be reported to the Washington State Patrol as provided by RCW 46.52.030(1) and WAC 446-85-010.

R-6.310.230.A(9) Passenger Complaint Resolution.

1. The taxicab association or for-hire vehicle operator shall promptly investigate each consumer complaint as follows:
 - a. The taxicab association representative or for-hire vehicle operator shall contact the complainant within twenty-four (24) hours to acknowledge and ascertain the nature of the complaint. This requirement is met if the association representative or for-hire vehicle operator made the original contact with the complainant.
 - b. The taxicab association representative or for-hire vehicle operator must resolve the complaint within ten (10) business days (non-holiday weekdays) to the satisfaction of the complainant or refer the complaint to the Director for investigation. A Notice of Violation with attendant monetary penalties and penalty points *will* be issued if the complaint is unresolved and determined to be valid by the Director. A Notice of Violation *may* be issued for a complaint, even if resolved, if the Director determines that the violations are of a serious nature (e.g., refusal of service due to racial discrimination, refusal of service to disabled persons).
 - c. Unresolved complaints received by the Director will be considered in the decision of whether renewal of the taxicab association license or for-hire vehicle license is in the public interest. [SMC 6.310.250]
 - d. The disposition of the complaint must be indicated in a log of customer complaints maintained by the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle operator.
2. A passenger complaint will be considered resolved if the taxicab association representative or for-hire vehicle operator:

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

- a. makes reasonable efforts to identify the vehicle and for-hire driver;
- b. takes appropriate corrective action (e.g., written warning, suspension, re-training) to prevent another complaint of the same type involving the same vehicle or for-hire driver; and
- c. contacts the complainant to report the results of the investigation and corrective action taken, if any, and offers apologies or reimbursement of fares paid, as appropriate.

R-6.310.300 C(5) Evidence of Vehicle Insurance.

1. Satisfactory evidence of vehicle insurance shall be limited to a valid commercial vehicle insurance policy or insurance binder. A certificate of insurance shall not be accepted as evidence of insurance.
2. A valid insurance policy for each taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall be provided to the Director when issued.
3. On the taxicab association license application, the taxicab association representative shall certify that there are no limitations to insurance coverage that is prohibited by SMC 6.310.300C(5)(d).

Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles

R-6.310.320.C(1)(b) Vehicle Age.

1. For the purposes of enforcing the maximum vehicle age requirement, the model year of a vehicle is the year indicated on the vehicle registration issued by the State of Washington.
2. The age of a vehicle will be the age at the time of vehicle license renewal.

R-6.310.320.E Certificate of Safety, Maintenance Records.

1. No taxicab or for-hire vehicle license shall be renewed unless a **Certificate of Safety** has been issued by an approved mechanic during the previous six (6) months. No change of equipment (replacement vehicle) shall be approved unless a Certificate of Safety has been issued by an approved mechanic during the previous thirty (30) days.
2. The Certificate of Safety shall certify that an inspection was performed of the mechanical condition of the vehicle using manufacturer specifications and it was found to be satisfactory for service as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle. The **inspection shall include** all of the following systems:
 - a. braking system including emergency brakes
 - b. suspension system
 - c. steering system
 - d. exhaust system

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

- e. lubrication and coolant systems (no fluid leaks)
 - f. front end alignment
3. Mechanics who sign a Certificate of Safety shall be approved by the Director. These mechanics must have been awarded **certificates of competency** by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) in the following areas:
- a. brakes,
 - b. engines,
 - c. steering, and
 - d. suspension systems, or
 - e. master mechanic.

Approved mechanics, or the company they work for, may not own, lease or drive a taxicab or for-hire vehicle or have any financial interest, including employment, in any taxicab association.

4. Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles shall be maintained following the service standards recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. **Maintenance and service records** for all taxicabs and for-hire vehicles must be maintained by the vehicle owner for a period of three (3) years. Such records shall be available for inspection by the Director without notice during normal business hours.
5. A vehicle that has been in a collision and determined by the insurance adjuster to be a "total wreck" shall not be repaired and placed back in service as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle until an approved ASE-certified technician with a current certification in "structural analysis and damage repair" has verified that there is no damage to the vehicle frame.

R-6.310.320.G Vehicle Safety Inspections.

1. Each taxicab and for-hire vehicle shall pass a vehicle safety inspection as **part of the vehicle license process** and for changes of equipment (vehicle replacement). Additional inspections may be required by the Director based upon the vehicle's violation history.
2. The vehicle safety inspection fee is included in the annual license fee except that there are **additional fees** prescribed at SMC 6.310.150.B for change of equipment, change of taxicab association, Class A violation vehicle reinspection, Class B violation vehicle reinspection, suspension reinstatement, and inspection rescheduling. Vehicles will not be inspected until all outstanding fees are paid in full.
3. All vehicle safety inspections, with the exception of vehicle inspections on the street, will be scheduled by appointment only. If a taxicab or for-hire vehicle is late for an inspection required by the Director, the appointment will be cancelled, the vehicle license will be suspended, and a \$50 monetary penalty plus 2 penalty points will be assessed against the vehicle owner.
4. A Notice of Violation will be issued for Class A violations and a Summary Suspension will be issued for Class B violations. When reinspection or reinstatement fees are charged, no monetary penalty will be imposed. Penalty points will be assessed against taxicab associations for **violations found during vehicle safety inspections at the Test Station**. The points will be assessed in accordance with SMC 6.310.605.A(2).

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

5. Vehicle safety inspections shall include the following items [Note: all equipment shall operate properly and replacement equipment shall meet manufacturer's original specifications]:
- a. **color scheme and logos;**
 - b. **trade name and vehicle number markings;**
 - c. **metal taxicab vehicle license plate and year decal (taxicabs) or windshield license decal (for-hire vehicles);**
 - d. **rate information;**
 - e. **consumer information display;**
 - f. **windshield wiper and defroster;**
 - g. **mirrors, rear and left side view** - free of cracks and defects;
 - h. **windshield** - free of cracks, chips or defects that could interfere with driver's vision, **other windows** - intact and must open and close properly, no decals, posters, or other materials on windows;
 - i. **door handles and locks** - no devices that restrict ability of a passenger from readily exiting the vehicle in an emergency;
 - j. **braking system including emergency brake** - capable of holding vehicle on a 30 degree incline with gear selector in neutral;
 - k. **headlights, tail lights, parking lights, turn signal lights, brake lights, back-up lights, license plate lights, side lights and emergency flashers** - must be covered with **undamaged lenses** of appropriate type and color;
 - l. **tires, including spare (with tire jack and handle)**, properly inflated and having minimum tread depth required by RCW 46.37 (2/32 inch) and free of defects;
 - m. **horn;**
 - n. **interior panels** - free of tears, dirt; **interior lights** and driver instrument displays (**speedometer, odometer, gear selection indicator, seat belt warning light, and engine warning system**);
 - o. **floor covering** - no metal showing, undamaged, clean floor mats;
 - p. **upholstered area and headliner** - clean, no tears;
 - q. **seats** - clean, unbroken and fastened securely, no exposed springs, wires or framework;
 - r. **seat belts** for driver and each passenger position, clean and operate properly;
 - s. **accelerator, brake, emergency brake, and clutch pedals** - rubber pads in good condition, no exposed metal;
 - t. **trunk or luggage area** - floor covering, clean, free of offensive odors and litter (nothing in trunk except spare tire, tire jack and handle, emergency tools, child car seat);
 - u. **bumpers, grills, and body molding** - no decals, bumper stickers or advertisements unless specifically approved by the Director;
 - v. **body defects** (dents, creases, blemishes, ripples, rust or holes) which impair the appearance or serviceability of the vehicle - violations include:
 - (1) a body defect six (6) linear inches or greater and where the deepest point of depression is one-quarter (1/4) inch or greater; or

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

- (2) a body defect three (3) inches in width or greater and three (3) inches in height or greater and where the deepest point of depression is one-quarter (1/4) inch or greater; or
 - (3) any defect which is one-half (1/2) inch at the deepest point of depression regardless of width or height; or
 - (4) exterior paint which is not uniform in color, does not completely cover the vehicle, or is not in compliance with approved color scheme;
- w. **wheels** - properly aligned, matching hubcaps or wheel covers, wheel rims of uniform type, size and color;
 - x. **steering system**;
 - y. **suspension system**;
 - z. **exhaust system** - no exhaust leaks, no missing support for tail pipe;
 - aa. **heating system and air conditioning system (if installed)**;
 - bb. **two-way mobile telephone (until December 31, 2001) or radio [SMC 6.310.320.N]**;
 - cc. **taximeter** - sealed (taxicabs only) [SMC 6.310.320.K];
 - dd. **toplight** - activated by use of taxi meter;
 - ee. **gas cap** for fuel fill.
6. Any licensed vehicle inspected and found to contain a mechanical, structural, or safety defect may be required to obtain a new Certificate of Safety from an approved mechanic. Vehicles which have been involved in an accident may be required to obtain a new Certificate of Safety from an approved mechanic.
7. Violations that are determined to present a "clear, substantial and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property" shall result in a summary suspension of the vehicle license. These "safety" violations include, but are not limited to:
- a. inoperable **windshield wiper or defroster**;
 - b. **damaged or missing mirrors**;
 - c. **windshield** with crack or defect in driver's viewing area (above hoodline and below rear view mirror) - cracks exceeding one (1) inch in size;
 - d. inoperable **door handles or locks**;
 - e. inadequate **brake or emergency brake**;
 - f. inoperable **headlight (low beam), tail light, turn signal light, or brake light**;
 - g. **tires** with insufficient tread or defects, uninflated spare tire or missing **tire jack or handle**, or tires of different size on the same axle;
 - h. inoperable **horn**;
 - i. inoperable **speedometer or gear selection indicator**;
 - j. **seats** broken or not fastened securely;
 - k. inoperable or missing **seat belts**;
 - l. rubber pads worn to exposed metal from **accelerator, brake, emergency brake or clutch pedals**;
 - m. **steering system** defect;
 - n. **suspension system** defect;
 - o. inoperable two-way **mobile telephone or radio**;
 - p. **gas cap** for fuel fill;
 - q. **exhaust system** leak; or

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

- r. bumper damaged so that it reduces protection from low speed collisions.

R-6.310.320.I Rate Information.

1. **Exterior display (taxicabs only).** A sign indicating the meter rate specified at SMC 6.310.530.D, the airport flat rate, and any special rates shall be permanently affixed on the outside of the rear passenger doors on both sides of the vehicle. The signs shall be positioned beneath the window line and centered on the upper one third (1/3) of the rear passenger doors. Lettering and numbers shall not be less than three quarters (3/4) inch in height and the width shall be proportional to the height provided that any "cents" rate may be one half (1/2) inch in height. The rate information shall be in a color which contrasts to the portion of the vehicle where it is placed. No other rate information shall be displayed without approval of the Director. Special rates must be expressed as a percentage of the meter rate.
2. **Interior display.** A sign indicating the meter rates specified at SMC 6.310.530.D, the airport flat rate, and any special rates shall be permanently affixed at the top of the left window immediately behind the driver so as to be readily discernible to passengers. This sign must have a transparent background. The lettering and number size requirements are the same as for exterior displays and shall be in a dark color.

R-6.310.320.K Taximeter Tests.

1. Each taxicab shall pass a taximeter test **at least once per year**. Additional tests shall be required if the meter seal is broken, the taxicab owner is changing equipment (replacement of vehicle), or as the Director requires in order to confirm that the taxi meter is functioning properly.
2. Taximeter tests shall be performed following **procedures contained in Handbook 44 Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices (2000)**, as amended, published by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). All taximeters placed in service after July 5, 1997 must have a Certificate of Conformance issued by the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) proving compliance with the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP).
3. No taximeter test will be performed on a vehicle **during a change of equipment** (replacement of vehicle) until the vehicle safety inspection is completed with no violations.
4. All taximeter tests will be scheduled by appointment only. If the taxicab is late for an appointment scheduled by the Director, the appointment will be cancelled, the vehicle license will be suspended, and a \$50 monetary penalty plus 2 penalty points will be assessed against the vehicle owner.

R-6.310.320.L Consumer Information.

1. A **consumer information display** shall be placed so as to be visible to passengers in the rear seat. Another display shall be permanently affixed to the dash so as to be visible to

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

passengers in the front seat. The consumer information displays shall include the following information:

- a. the taxicab or for-hire vehicle trade name, vehicle number and taxicab association telephone number (if applicable);
 - b. a passenger receipt notice: "*The driver of this vehicle is required to provide each passenger with a receipt upon payment of the fare.*"; and
 - c. the "*passenger complaint hotline: 296-TAXI*".
2. The **lettering and numbers** shall not be less than one half (1/2) inch in height and the width shall be proportional. The consumer information display shall be permanently affixed and shall be in a color which contrasts to the portion of the vehicle interior where it is placed. No other information shall be included on the consumer information display without the written approval of the Director. The consumer information display on the dash must be a plastic sign with the lettering and numbers engraved, raised molded or neatly painted - no "stick-ons" or temporary sign will be accepted.
3. Consumer survey and **complaint cards** shall be placed so that they may be obtained by a passenger in the rear seat.
4. A **reproduction of the for-hire driver's license** shall be placed on the dash so it is visible to all passengers. The reproduction shall not be less than six (6) inches in width and four (4) inches in height. [SMC 6.310.455.C]

R-6.310.320.N Two-Way Communications.

1. For-hire drivers of taxicabs may use mobile radiotelephones in lieu of two-way radio communication until December 31, 2001 but must **respond** to Director inquiries within one (1) hour when the vehicle is operated.
2. Taxicab associations must keep dispatch records for two years. The dispatch records must include the following information for each trip: date and time of trip, taxicab number, and service location.

R-6.310.320.O Vehicle Type and Size and Advertisements.

1. Vehicles proposed for service as taxicabs or for-hire vehicles must meet the following type and size requirements:
 - a. **Type:** sedan, station wagon, or van designed to carry not more than eleven (11) persons excluding the driver. Sedans and station wagons must have a minimum of four (4) doors.
 - b. **Size:**
 - (1) sedan - at least 120 cubic feet of passenger and luggage volume.
 - (2) station wagon - at least 160 cubic feet of passenger and luggage volume.
 - (3) van - must meet American's with Disabilities Act 1990 requirements as applicable. No dual rear axle vans or dual rear wheel vans.Passenger and luggage volumes will be based on figures listed in the U. S. Department of Energy's *Fuel Economy Guide*.

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

2. All advertising placed on a taxicab must be approved in advance by the Director. A **rooftop commercial advertising** mechanism may be displayed on the vehicle if approved by the Director. Advertising may not obscure any required vehicle markings, including the color scheme, or block visibility through any window. The Director may approve up to two (2) bumper stickers on the rear bumper if neatly applied.

R-6.310.340 Vehicle License Transfer.

1. A notarized Taxicab or For-Hire Vehicle License Release of Interest form, provided by the Director, must be submitted to the Director within five (5) calendar days of the transfer date in order to be valid. If the Taxicab or For-Hire Vehicle License Release of Interest form is submitted to the Director more than five (5) days after the *transfer date*, it will not be accepted.
2. The Taxicab or For-Hire Vehicle License Release of Interest form must be completely filled out or it will not be accepted by the Director. Required information includes the taxicab or for-hire vehicle trade name and number, taxicab or for-hire vehicle license number(s), name of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, new licensee name and signature, date of license transfer, previous licensee name and signature, and notary seal and date.
3. If false information is included on the Taxicab or For-Hire Vehicle License Release of Interest form, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle license application shall be denied. When the license has already been issued, the Director shall revoke the license.

R-6.310.360.C Retired Vehicles.

1. The vehicle license or permit for each retired vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and void.
2. A vehicle shall be **considered retired** if any of the following conditions exist:
 - a. the vehicle owner has **failed to renew the taxicab or for-hire vehicle license** for a period exceeding sixty (60) days after expiration; or
 - b. the **insurance policy is cancelled** or the vehicle is deleted from the insurance policy for a period exceeding 60 days; or
 - c. trip sheets, sign out logs, consumer receipts, and dispatch records cannot substantiate that the vehicle was legally operated during a period exceeding sixty (60) days.
3. Abandoned licenses must be surrendered to the Director without compensation to the former licensee.

For-Hire Drivers

R-6.310.410 Physician's Certificate.

1. A **form** will be provided to each applicant for a for-hire driver's license at the time application is made. The form shall be completed by a physician, licensed to

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

practice in Washington state, certifying the applicant's fitness as a for-hire driver.

2. The **scope of the physical examination** and the standards for certification as prescribed by the Seattle-King County Health Department and following recognized and accepted standards developed by the United States Department of Transportation shall be as follows:
 - a. a person is physically qualified to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle if he/she:
 - (1) has no **loss** of a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm unless the applicant can demonstrate, to the certifying physician's satisfaction, adequate dexterity with an artificial limb;
 - (2) has no **impairment** of the use of a foot, a leg, a hand, fingers, or an arm, and no other structural defect or limitation which is likely to interfere with his/her ability to control and safely drive a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
 - (3) has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of **diabetes mellitus** which is likely to interfere with his/her ability to control and drive a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
 - (4) has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other **cardiovascular disease** of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congested cardiac failure;
 - (5) has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of a **respiratory dysfunction** likely to interfere with his/her ability to control and drive a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
 - (6) has no current clinical diagnosis of **high blood pressure** likely to interfere with his/her ability to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
 - (7) has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, **muscular**, neuromuscular, or vascular disease which interferes with his/her ability to control and operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle safely;
 - (8) has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of **epilepsy** or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
 - (9) has no **mental**, nervous, organic, or functional disease or psychiatric disorder likely to interfere with his/her ability to drive a taxicab or for-hire vehicle safely;
 - (10) has distant **visual acuity** of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in each eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity separately corrected to 20/40 (Snellen) or better with corrective lenses, distant binocular acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in both eyes with or without corrective lenses, field of vision at least 70 degrees in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber;
 - (11) first perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear at not less than five (5) feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average **hearing loss** in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing aid when the audiometric device is calibrated to

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

- American National Standard Z24.5-1951;
 - (12) does not use amphetamine, **narcotic**, or any habit-forming drug; and
 - (13) has no current clinical diagnosis of **alcoholism**.
- b. A person will be deemed physically qualified to drive a taxicab or for-hire vehicle if he/she holds a current and valid Medical Examiner's Certificate issued pursuant to the United States Department of Transportation in accordance with the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR 391.41-391.49), provided such certificate has been issued within the preceding ninety (90) days.

R-6.310.420.A Written and Oral Examination.

1. **The written examination will be administered by the Director** and the scope of the written examination will be as follows:
 - a. One portion of the examination will test the **applicant's knowledge of vehicle standards and for-hire driver requirements** contained in Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code and these administrative rules. It will include for-hire driver requirements dealing with operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, conduct, rates, driver-passenger relations, soliciting and cruising, and taxi zones. This portion will also address taxicab vehicle standards dealing with safety, defensive driving, driver (personal) safety, driver appearance, driver communication skills, sensitivity to special needs of handicapped passengers, and how to make proper change.
 - b. A second portion of the examination will test the **applicant's knowledge of geography and history of Seattle, King County, and surrounding areas**. The applicant will be required to use a map during the examination.
 - c. The **form and scoring** of the written examination will be as follows:
 - (1) form: questions shall be true/false, multiple choice, matching, and completion or short answer.
 - (2) scoring: the applicant must pass both portions of the examination with a score of 80% correct or better.
2. **The oral examination will be administered by certified program(s) or a contractor**, to be determined by the Director, and shall test the **applicant's ability to speak and understand English** sufficiently to perform the responsibilities of a for-hire driver. An applicant will be considered to have passed this portion of the examination if he/she achieves a raw score of 76 using the Basic English Skills Test (BEST). The opportunity to retake the examination at no cost that is specified at SMC 6.310.420.C shall not apply to the oral English proficiency examination.

R-6.310.460.E. Flat Rate to Airport.

1. For-hire drivers shall charge the \$25.00 flat rate for trips made from the downtown hotel district to Sea-Tac Airport with no intermediate stops as specified by SMC 6.310.530E(6). The taximeter shall be engaged during the trip but the taximeter fare shall not be charged to passengers.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

2. Failure to charge the flat rate on trips from the downtown hotel district to Sea-Tac Airport will result in a Class B monetary penalty assessed against the for-hire driver. Taxicab associations are required to reimburse passengers the amount of any overcharge.

R-6.310.460.F Trip Sheets.

1. For-hire drivers must complete a trip sheet entry for each trip prior to beginning another trip.
2. The **contents** of trip sheets shall be as specified at SMC 6.310.460.F except that the driver shall make a notation if a passenger refused a receipt.
3. The for-hire driver must **sign** each trip sheet at the end of his/her shift.
4. The **reverse side** of the trip sheet shall contain a printed check list of vehicle equipment that each for-hire driver must inspect to ensure are working properly as specified by 6.310.450.C and Rule R-6.310.320G7.
5. The **check list of vehicle equipment** must be completed, dated and signed by the for-hire driver prior to operating the taxicab or for-hire vehicle. The check list may not be signed by anyone other than the for-hire driver for each shift. Each item on the check list must be checked as operating satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily. *The for-hire driver shall not operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle if any item on the check list is not operating satisfactorily.*

R-6.310.465.A Taxicab Driver Uniform.

1. For-hire drivers operating taxicabs must wear the uniform specified in the taxicab association license application.
2. If a jacket or sweater is worn over the uniform, it must be specified as part of the uniform by the taxicab association. However, jackets in dark blue or black solid colors with a pin, approved by the Director, that displays the taxicab association name, are acceptable.

R-6.310.465.H Passenger Receipts.

1. Asking a passenger whether he/she wants a receipt does not meet the intent of the requirement at SMC 6.310.465.H that for-hire drivers must provide each passenger with a receipt. Drivers must **write out and offer receipts** to passengers. For taxicabs, a taximeter which prints receipts will satisfy the passenger receipt requirement if it is approved by the Director. If a passenger refuses to take a receipt, the for-hire driver must indicate this on the trip sheet.

R-6.310.465.L Designation of Non-Smoking Vehicles.

1. Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles designated as non-smoking must have transparent decals with the international sign for "no smoking" on the rear windows.
2. In the interior of the vehicles, a sign must be displayed that is visible to all passengers with

NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.

Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules - [Effective Date: April 1, 2001]

½-inch lettering that states "no smoking".

R-6.310.465.M Payment of Fares.

1. The for-hire driver of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall carry a reasonable amount of change which shall be equal to twenty dollars (\$20.00). The change shall be in a variety of denominations so that the driver can accurately make change for a fare.
2. Unless a notice is posted in the passenger compartment of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, the for-hire driver shall accept as payment of a fare:
 - a. traveller's checks (not more than \$20.00 above the amount of the fare);
 - b. money orders (not more than \$20.00 above the amount of the fare); and
 - c. METRO scrip.

The Director encourages the for-hire driver to accept major credit cards as payment of a fare. For-hire drivers must accept all methods of payment listed in the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle operator license application.

3. The taxicab association or for-hire vehicle dispatcher shall communicate any restrictions regarding acceptable payment to a prospective passenger upon receiving an inquiry.

H: TAXICAB RULE REVISION 4-1-2001.DOC

**NOTICE: IF THE DOCUMENT IN THIS FRAME IS LESS CLEAR THAN THIS NOTICE
IT IS DUE TO THE QUALITY OF THE DOCUMENT.**