

CHAPTER 6 TAXICAB PARTS AND EQUIPMENT

Section

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600 APPLICATION AND SCOPE

- 600.1 This chapter shall be applicable to and governs parts and equipment of taxicabs licensed in the District of Columbia (District).
- 600.2 No motor vehicle shall be operated as a taxicab in the District without the prior approval of the Commission.
- 600.3 Each motor vehicle licensed as a taxicab in the District shall comply with the regulations governing the inspection of passenger vehicles for hire and standards established by the Commission.

AUTHORITY: Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985, as amended, D.C. Official Code §§ 50-301 to 50-309 (2001).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3603 (June 1, 1990).

601 PARTS AND EQUIPMENT

- 601.1 Each taxicab licensed under § 31(d) of the License Act (D.C. Official Code § 47-2829 (2001)) shall be either sedan, station wagon, minivan, or built-for-the-purpose, and shall be equipped with at least two (2) rear doors that do not slide to open or close for the entrance and exit of passengers, in addition to the door or doors which give access to the driver’s seat. All passenger doors shall be so constructed that they will remain securely fastened during normal operation, but may be readily opened by a passenger in case of emergency.

- 601.2 Each taxicab shall be of good substantial appearance and be so constructed and maintained as to provide for the safety of the public and for continuous and satisfactory operation, and to reduce to a minimum noise and vibration caused by that operation.
- 601.3 Each taxicab shall be structurally sound as to all of its parts, shall not have broken or cracked glass, or damaged fenders, doors or parts, and shall be painted to give reasonable protection to all painted surfaces from structural deterioration. All identifying marks on taxicabs shall be clearly visible at all times.
- 601.4 The seats of every taxicab shall be vinyl, leather, or covered with plastic, and the rear seat(s) shall be removable.
- 601.5 Any floor mat added to a taxicab to protect or replace carpet shall be nonabsorbent and washable.
- 601.6 No taxicab shall be equipped with shades or curtains which can be manipulated in a way as to shield the occupants or driver from observation from outside the vehicle. No taxicab shall be equipped with any after market (film) tint to darken the front and rear windshields and windows.
- 601.7 Each taxicab in service shall be equipped with a speedometer and odometer properly installed, maintained in good working order, and exposed to view. No taxicab shall be used in taxicab service while its speedometer or odometer is not working properly or is disconnected.
- 601.8 Each taxicab shall be equipped with a light capable of illuminating the interior of each taxicab and controlled by the operation of the doors or manually controlled by the driver.
- 601.9 Effective April 1, 2001, each taxicab shall be equipped with a safety partition between the front and rear seats for driver safety. The safety partition shall be installed so that it:
- (a) Does not obstruct the vision of the driver to the rear;
 - (b) Can be opened from the driver's side;
 - (c) Does not impede entering into and exiting from the taxicab;
 - (d) Is not a hazard to passengers in the rear seat in case of accident; and
 - (e) Meets all standards promulgated by the Commission and the Department of Public Works.

601.10 In lieu of the partition required by § 601.9, on April 1, 2001 a taxicab may be equipped with a camera for driver safety. The camera shall be:

- (a) Approved by the Commission;
- (b) Mounted on the front dashboard or rear view mirror in such a way that it does not limit the driver's visibility.
- (c) Equipped with infrared lenses so there is no need for outside light sources;
- (d) Activated at all times that the vehicle is in operation;
- (e) Capable of storing clear images of the entire rear seat of the taxicab and its occupants; and
- (f) Inspected by an authorized repair facility every six (6) months to coincide with the vehicle inspection.

601.11 Each taxicab vehicle with a camera shall have signs, approved by the Commission, to notify passengers they are being photographed.

601.12 In lieu of the partition required by § 601.9, on April 1, 2001 a taxicab may be equipped with safety warning lights for driver safety. The safety warning lights shall be:

- (a) Approved by the Commission; and
- (b) Used by the driver only to summon assistance in the event that he or she has reason to believe that he or she is being threatened with harm.

601.13 A taxicab may be equipped with a factory installed vinyl or cloth roof provided the color of the roof is consistent with the Commission approved color scheme.

601.14 All taxicab vehicles licensed in the District of Columbia shall be equipped with a properly working heating system during the period of October 16th through May 14th.

601.15 All taxicab vehicles licensed in the District of Columbia shall be equipped with a properly working air conditioner system during the period of May 15th to October 15th.

601.16 All taxicabs on public streets or public space shall be properly equipped with either four (4) hubcaps, four (4) wheel covers, four (4) chrome wheels with small hubcaps, or four (4) mag wheels, with exposed lug nuts properly sealed.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3603 (June 1, 1990); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 43 DCR 6959 (December 27, 1996); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 45 DCR 8866, 8867 (December 11, 1998); and by Final Rulemaking published at 47 DCR 4702(a), 4702(a) -

4702(c) (June 2, 2000); and by Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 11353 (December 14, 2001).

602 METERS

602.1 A taxicab may be equipped with a device that computes fares, based on the zone charges set forth in Appendix 8-2, mechanically or electronically, upon notifying the Commission of its use.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3604 (June 1, 1990).

603 SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TAXICAB VEHICLES

603.1 Specially equipped vehicles may be approved by the Commission to operate as taxicabs to transport physically disabled or medically disabled persons.

603.2 An application to operate specially equipped vehicles as taxicabs shall be made on a form approved by the Commission. The form shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant or registered owner of the vehicle;
- (b) The make, model, year, and vehicle identification number;
- (c) A statement that the vehicle complies with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, as applicable; and
- (d) A statement of the kinds of physical or medical disabilities that can be accommodated.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 1715 (April 1, 1994).

604 [REPEALED] (Final Rulemaking published at 47 DCR 4702(a), 4702(c) (June 2, 2000).

605 CRUISING LIGHTS

605.1 Each taxicab licensed in the District shall be equipped with a permanently affixed cruising light to distinguish it from other vehicles. No cruising light shall be affixed by magnetic or other means so as to be easily removed.

605.2 An association or owner with twenty (20) or more taxicabs may, upon application and approval by the Commission, equip its taxicabs with cruising lights of a design

- distinctive to that association or ownership.
- 605.3 Applications for approval of a distinctive cruising light shall describe the light in reasonable detail and shall contain a drawing or picture thereof.
- 605.4 No taxicab shall be equipped with a cruising light which has been approved by the Commission for the use of an association or the owner of a fleet of twenty (20) or more taxicabs, unless it belongs to a member of the association or to the owner of the fleet for which the light is approved, or the written authorization of the owner of the fleet to use its cruising light, design and trade name has been obtained and is on file with the Commission.
- 605.5 Effective June 1, 1990, independently operated taxicabs shall be equipped with cruising lights of the design approved by the Commission. Independently operated taxicabs equipped with a cruising light, prior to June 1, 1990, of a design other than the one approved by the Commission for independent taxicabs may continue to operate with that light until the taxicab is replaced.
- 605.6 The cruising light of a taxicab shall be illuminated at all times when the taxicab is for hire during the hours when driving lights are required, and shall be turned off when the taxicab is not for hire.
- 605.7 Whenever a taxicab is responding to a telephone call or previous engagement and is displaying the "On Call" sign as provided in the Commission's rules, the cruising light shall be turned off.
- 605.8 Whenever a taxicab operator removes his or her vehicle from service and is proceeding to a place of his or her choosing without intending to take on passengers and is displaying the "Off Duty" sign, as provided in the Commission's rules, the cruising light shall be turned off.
- 605.9 No taxicab shall be operated in the public service unless its cruising light is in proper working condition.
- 605.10 Taxicabs equipped with exterior rooftop advertising pursuant to the Taxicab Commercial Advertising Amendment Act of 1992 shall not be required to be equipped with cruising lights; provided, that the exterior rooftop advertising is illuminated in accordance with the requirements of this section.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3605 (June 1, 1990); as amended by § 3 of the Taxicab Commercial Advertising Amendment Act of 1992, D.C. Law 9-218, 40 DCR 556, 557 (January 22, 1993); and by Final Rulemaking published at 45 DCR 8866, 8867 (December 11, 1998).

606 LOCKED SAFE

606.1 A taxicab may be equipped with a locked safe mounted on the floorboard next to the driver, and if so equipped, the taxicab may display a decal on the right rear door or fender consisting of letters not more than three inches (3 in.) stating: "This driver protected by a locked safe."

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3606 (June 1, 1990).

607 SEAT BELTS

607.1 All taxicab operators shall comply with the "Mandatory Use of Seat Belts Act of 1985," D.C. Law 6-73 (D.C. Official Code § 50-1801 (2001) et seq.).

607.2 All passenger vehicles for hire shall contain a sign which states the following:

"District law requires mandatory use of seat belts. There is a fifty dollar (\$50) penalty for noncompliance."

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3606 (June 1, 1990); as amended by § 3 of the Mandatory Use of Seat Belts Amendment Act of 1996, D.C. Law 11-244, 44 DCR 1155 (February 28, 1997).

608 INSPECTION OF TAXICABS

608.1 All taxicabs shall be inspected at least semi-annually, or at other times as required by the Commission, for safe operating condition and compliance with District of Columbia motor vehicle regulations with respect to the condition of the body and fenders, cleanliness, repairs, and other mechanical parts relating to both the exterior and interior condition of the taxi vehicle.

608.2 Any Hack Inspector, police officer or other authorized agent of the District may inspect and test the lights, brakes, steering assembly, tires, equipment, horn or any other device required by Title 18 DCMR and the Commission's rules and regulations at any time a taxicab is on the public streets or public space.

608.3 Any Hack Inspector, police officer or other authorized agent of the District may order the removal of an unsafe or improperly equipped taxicab from any public street or space to one of the official District Inspection Stations for reinspection notwithstanding the fact that the taxicab displays an approved inspection sticker.

608.4 No person shall drive, move, or permit the operation or use of any taxicab which is mechanically unsafe, improperly equipped, or otherwise unfit to be operated.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3606 (June 1, 1990).

609 AGE OF TAXICAB

609.1 Except as provided in § 609.2, all taxicabs licensed to operate in the District of Columbia, whether owned, rented, or leased, shall be not more than eight (8) model years old.

609.2 An individual with a valid operator identification card (face) issued under D.C. Official Code § 47-2829(d) (2001) may own and operate one (1) licensed taxicab vehicle that is more than eight (8) model years old.

609.3 This section shall become effective June 1, 1998.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 45 DCR 2556 (April 24, 1998).

610 - 611 [RESERVED]

612 PENALTY

612.1 The provisions of § 825 of this title shall govern the imposition of monetary fines for failure to comply with any of the provisions of the chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 44 DCR 7686 (December 19, 1997).

699 DEFINITIONS

699.1 The words and phrases in this chapter shall have the meaning as set forth in § 899.1 of this title.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 3595, 3606 (June 1, 1990).