

Taxicab Vehicle Inspection Requirements

Department Annual Physical Inspection

Per Taxicab Rule 444, all taxicabs shall be inspected when first placed into service as a taxicab, and then annually by the Department. This inspection covers various physical items such as paint, tires, brakes, lights, signals, interior condition, vehicle equipment, safety equipment, registration, taximeter, communication equipment, signs, etc.

Some of the specific items included in this annual Department inspection are listed on the following page (page two of this document).

Annual Mechanical/Safety Vehicle Inspection

Per Taxicab Rule 447, a mechanical vehicle inspection must also be completed on all vehicles reaching five years of age or older (from model year) in addition to an annual physical Department inspection (as noted above). This inspection must be completed by a mechanic or garage certified by the Automobile Club of Southern California, using a garage or mechanic that is not associated with the taxicab operator. This mechanical inspection becomes an annual requirement each year thereafter in order for the vehicle to be allowed to operate as a taxicab through its maximum age limit.

The inspection form for the mechanical inspection must be signed and stamped by the mechanic/garage and submitted to the Department with original invoice and any defect repair paperwork. As of April 2017, operators are no longer required to submit smog check certificates to the Department unless unusual vehicle condition and/or tailpipe emissions are noted by the Department.

The mechanical inspection checklist is included as page three of this document.

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Taxicab Vehicle Inspection Items by DOT – Initial and Annual Inspection Criteria

Vehicles must meet and comply with all requirements specified in the taxi rule book, municipal and vehicle codes, franchise ordinances, and any other state or federal regulatory requirement. Some of the items reviewed during entry and annual DOT taxicab vehicle inspections include the following items:

General Vehicle Inspection Items	Rule/Reference
1. Vehicle Color Scheme & Identification	LAMC 71.16 & 71.20; Rule 422, 423
2. Unsightly Paint Defacement or Body Dents	437
3. Tires _____ Hubcaps _____	440, 454
4. Glass _____ Mirrors _____ Windows _____	434, 435
5. Lamps: Head _____ Tail _____ Stop _____	434, 454
6. Lamps: Directional _____ Flasher _____	434, 454
7. Dome/Top Light	403, 454
8. Back-up Lights	434, 454
9. Robbery Light	416, 454
10. License Plate Lamp	434, 454
11. Odometer	n/a
12. DMV Registration	Ordinance 4.3.c
13. Meter Number: _____	402, 420, 461
14. Weights & Measures Certificate	402
15. Radio (two-way)	404
16. Wipers _____ A/C _____ Htr _____ Defrost _____ Horn _____	454
17. Steering Mechanism	454
18. Check Engine Light	460
19. Safety Shield _____ Camera _____ Camera Signs _____	407
20. Exhaust System & Emission Status	401
21. Brakes: Service _____ Emergency _____	454
22. Trunk Unlock Device	417
23. Seats _____ Upholstery _____ Projections _____	433, 436, 438
24. Seatbelts _____ Door Locks _____	435, 441, 442
25. Floor Covering _____ Head Liner _____	433, 436
26. I. D. Card Holder	418
27. Lettering: Size _____ Sign Locations _____	
28. Rate Postings (w/ \$5 change, all ride for price of one, credit cards accepted, driver provides printed receipt)	405, 410, 413, 459, 462
29. \$5.00 Change Sign (vehicle ext & rate sign)	411
30. All Passengers Ride for Price of One Sign (veh ext & rate sign)	413
31. Braille Sign	455
32. Customer Service/Comment Sign	458
33. Other Req'd Signs	439, 459, 462
34. Wheelchair Securement Straps	401.d

Taxicab Vehicle Inspection Requirements

City of Los Angeles Taxicab Safety Inspection Program – AAA Form

Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory	S	U	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory	S	U
GENERAL INSPECTION			TIRES – WHEELS		
Windshield Wipers L- R			Wheels – Cracked		
Windshield Washer Fluid			Tire Wear Even/Uneven		
Horns			Tread Depth		
Mirrors			RF - LF - RR - LR		
Air Filter			/32 /32 /32 /32		
Front and Rear Window Defogger			Comments:		
Window Integrity Open – Close			BRAKES		
Comments:			Brake Fluid		
LIGHTS			Brake Pads		
Headlight Hi – Low			Discs/Drums – Cracked		
Parking Lights			Parking Brake		
Turn Signal L – R			Comments:		
Tail Lights			SUSPENSION		
Stop Lights			Alignment		
License – Back – Up – Lights			Steering Wheel Play		
Side-Lights RF – LF – RR – LR			Bushings and Ball Joints		
Emergency Flashers			Shock Absorbers – McPherson Struts		
Indicator Lights (Instrumental Panel)			Wheel Bearings		
Comments:			Comments:		
BELTS – HOSES			EXHAUST SYSTEM		
Belt Air – P/S – Gen/Alt – AC			Catalytic Converter		
Pulley – Water Pump			Muffler		
Hoses Heater By Pass			Manifold		
Hoses Collant – Upper/Lower			Pipes		
Vacuum Lines			Comments:		
Fuel Hoses / Fuel Filter			BODY		
Comments:			Doors, Hood & Trunk Align & Close		
LUBRICANT – FLUIDS			Rust		
Engine Oil – Level – Low – Dirty			Collision Damage		
Trans Level – Low – Overfull – Burnt			Comments:		
P/Steering – Level/Hoses			TRANSMISSION		
Coolant Level – Rusty – Low			Shifts Smoothly		
Radiator Cap Condition			Holds Park Position		
Comments:			Comments:		
BATTERY			FUEL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE		
Carrier/Hold – Down/Cables			Smog Check Certificate		
Water Level – Low			Comments:		
Battery Test					
Comments:					

Taxicab Company _____ Taxicab No. _____ Hybrid Yes No

License Plate No. _____ VIN No. _____ Work Invoice No. _____ (attached)

I Certify that I have inspected this taxicab and that it is safe to operate at time of inspection. I have no affiliation with any taxicab company.

By: _____ Date: _____
Signature (Garage Mechanic)

DOT AAA Inspection Form

★ Attach original mechanic/shop work order/invoice and checklist. ★

