

Taxicab Rule Revisions After April 2014 – Updated Apr 2017

The City of Los Angeles Taxicab Rule Book was last published in its entirety in April 2014, per Board of Taxicab Commissioner's Resolution No. 072 (Board Order No. 072). As the Board attempts to regulate the Los Angeles taxicab industry, its drivers and taxicab vehicles, rules are often modified to better meet passenger needs, current business conditions and environmental factors.

This document includes any changes in the City of Los Angeles Taxicab Rules since the April 2014 publication of the Taxicab Rule Book. This would include revisions in any of the existing rules, additions to the Rule Book or removal of a previously approved rule.

Changes After the April 2014 Rule Book Publication (six total)

1) Effective 9/26/14, Rule No. 447 was revised by Board Order No. 073 to allow minivans and other large capacity vehicles that can seat a minimum of six passengers to have a maximum 10 year vehicle age allowance (ten years from the model year of the vehicle). The previous rule for these types of vehicles only allowed for an eight year maximum vehicle age. Please note that Rule 447 was again revised effective 4/20/17 as part of Board Order No. 082 listed at the end of this file. Rule 447 now reads as follows:

447. No taxicab shall be in excess of five years of age except that the vehicles placed into taxicab service prior to January 1, 2011, and any Level 2 rated Green Taxi may be used in taxicab service for four additional one-year periods (to the 9th anniversary date of the model year) provided the vehicle is inspected either six months prior to or after the end of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth years by a mechanic or garage approved by the Department and not affiliated with the taxicab operator. A wheelchair accessible vehicle, a Compressed Natural Gas fueled vehicle placed into taxicab service prior to 2011, **a large capacity vehicle maintaining passenger seating capacity of six or more**, or a Level 3 or Level 4 rated Green Taxi may be used in taxicab service for one further year (to the 10th anniversary date of the model year) provided the vehicle is inspected either six months prior to or after the end of the ninth year. Any other taxicab placed into taxicab service in calendar year 2011, or later, may be used in taxicab service to the 8th anniversary date of the model year provided the vehicle is inspected either six months prior to or after the end of the fifth, sixth and seventh year. The vehicle must pass the inspection which shall be based upon standards established by the Department. The Department shall establish the standards and the qualifications for the mechanic or garage. The inspection and smog certification due date shall be the same as the California Department of Motor Vehicles registration date (month and day). Inspection and smog certification information dated up to ninety days prior to the due date shall be accepted. [X:X:IOS:3:X]

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2) Effective 7/25/15, Rule No. 778 was revised by Board Order No. 075 to dis-allow smoking of any type (including electronic smoking devices) by either a driver or passenger while seated in a taxicab. Rule 778 now reads as follows:

778. **A driver and/or passenger shall not smoke, or use an electronic smoking device, while seated in the taxicab at any time.** [3:\$:X:3:X]

3) Effective 2/29/16, Rule No. 612 was revised by Board Order No. 078 to add a requirement for taxicab drivers to be able to safely use, locate and route destination requests using GPS location and mapping devices. The rule change included mandatory training for these devices as provided by taxicab operators. Rule 612 now reads as follows:

612. An applicant shall be able to locate, with the aid of a street atlas **and GPS location and mapping device**, street addresses, intersections, communities and points of interest in the Los Angeles area. **Applicants shall be provided training by the taxicab operator regarding the safe and efficient use of all in-vehicle routing equipment and devices (street atlas and GPS or other computerized mapping and routing programs).**

4) Effective 2/29/16, Rule No. 136 was added and Rule Nos. 737, 738, 752 and 758 were revised by Board Order No. 079 to clarify that the penalty associated for any type of driver discourtesy, trip refusal or trip dismissal based on passenger discrimination would be cause for permit revocation. Rule changes are as follow:

136. **DISCRIMINATION means any action, behavior, practice or prejudicial treatment based on race, creed, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual preference, marital status, medical condition or disability.**

737. A driver shall provide prompt, efficient service and be courteous at all times to the general public, other City-permitted taxicab drivers, and to City Investigators/officers (see Rule 780). Minor discourtesies may be forgiven. Unwanted conversation, verbal abuse and/or profanity shall be punished accordingly. **Discriminatory based discourtesies shall result in permit revocation.** The citing Investigator/officer shall provide a supplemental written report of the incident including the names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of all witnesses. [1-R:\$:X:3:A]

738. A driver shall be courteous at all times. If verbal abuse and/or profanity escalates into physical abuse, threatened or otherwise, or to throwing objects, such discourtesies shall be considered major and shall be punished accordingly. **Discriminatory based discourtesies shall result in permit revocation.** [7-R:\$:X:5:B]

752. A driver shall not refuse to transport any person except for the following reasons. **Discriminatory based trip refusals shall result in permit revocation.** The citing Investigator/officer shall provide a supplemental written report of the incident including the names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of all witnesses. [10-R:\$:X:3-5:B]
- a. driver has already been dispatched on another call;
 - b. passenger is acting in a disorderly or threatening manner, or otherwise causes the driver to reasonably believe that his/her health or safety, or that of others, may be endangered.
 - c. there is a reasonable expectation that passenger may cause the taxicab to become stained or evil smelling;
 - d. passenger requires the use of a litter or stretcher;
 - e. passenger can, upon request, show no ability to pay fare; and
 - f. driver is occupying a taxicab zone or taxicab stand pursuant to Board conditions under Rules 741 and 742.
758. A driver shall not dismiss or discharge any passenger at a point other than the requested destination without adequate cause. **Discriminatory based dismissals or discharges shall result in permit revocation.** [10-R:\$:X:10:B]

5) Effective 11/27/16, Rule No. 325 was added by Board Order No. 080 to specify that taxicab operators are to activate, program and use the automated dispatch rejection systems whereby a taxicab driver is placed on a 30 minute time-out period from the dispatch system if they have rejected a dispatch trip offer after booking into a particular area (matching the trip offer location). Operators must also report trip rejection counts to the Department. Rule 325 reads as follows:

325. **Each taxicab operator shall activate, program and use the automated dispatch rejection program as specified in Board Order No. 080, and shall report trip rejection counts to the Department on a monthly basis as formatted and requested by the Department. Failure to activate and use the automated rejection program, or failure to report trip rejections, will lead to daily penalties. [X:X:X:3:X]**

6) Effective 4/20/17, Rule No. 444 and 447 were amended to remove the requirement for taxicab operators to submit the smog check certificate as part of the annual AAA mechanical inspection reporting (Rule 447). Instead, Rule 444 was amended to indicate that a smog check or other type of vehicle inspection may be demanded at any time there is a concern regarding current vehicle condition. It was noted that the California Department of Motor Vehicles will request regular smog check tests as part of the vehicle registration process, and that vehicle registration status is verified each year.

444. All vehicles shall be inspected by the Department on a yearly basis. Each taxicab operator shall assure that after reasonable notice to operator, all appointments for annual vehicle inspections with the Department are kept. Cancellations by either party shall be upon a minimum of one business day, unless circumstances prevent otherwise. **The Department may require an additional physical inspection, mechanical inspection and/or smog check certification for any unusual engine/vehicle issues and tailpipe emissions as noted for any Department inspection (scheduled or otherwise).** [X:X:IOS:10:X]
447. No taxicab shall be in excess of five years of age except that the vehicles placed into taxicab service prior to January 1, 2011, and any Level 2 rated Green Taxi may be used in taxicab service for four additional one-year periods (to the 9th anniversary date of the model year) provided the vehicle is inspected either six months prior to or after the end of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth years by a mechanic or garage approved by the Department and not affiliated with the taxicab operator. A wheelchair accessible vehicle, a Compressed Natural Gas fueled vehicle placed into taxicab service prior to 2011, **a large capacity vehicle maintaining passenger seating capacity of six or more**, or a Level 3 or Level 4 rated Green Taxi may be used in taxicab service for one further year (to the 10th anniversary date of the model year) provided the vehicle is inspected either six months prior to or after the end of the ninth year. Any other taxicab placed into taxicab service in calendar year 2011, or later, may be used in taxicab service to the 8th anniversary date of the model year provided the vehicle is inspected either six months prior to or after the end of the fifth, sixth and seventh year. The vehicle must pass the **mechanical** inspection which shall be based upon standards established by the Department. The Department shall establish the standards and the qualifications for the mechanic or garage. The inspection due date shall be the same as the California Department of Motor Vehicles registration date (month and day). Inspection information dated up to ninety days prior to the due date shall be accepted. [X:X:IOS:3:X]