

**Hillsborough County**  
**Public Transportation Commission**  
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Rules Effective Date: August 31, 2010

## **Rules**

Taxicabs, Limousines, Vans  
Basic Life Support Ambulances and Handicabs

Rules of the  
Hillsborough County  
Public Transportation Commission  
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**Section 1**  
**Definitions**

(For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply)

- 1.1 **“Capacity”** means the maximum seating provided in a motor vehicle at the time of its original manufacture. Capacity, for the purposes of these rules, is determined by the original manufacturer, or manufacturer’s approved alterer and printed on the certification label affixed to the vehicle at the time of original manufacture. For those vehicles that do not have an approved certification label or the label does not state the vehicle capacity, capacity will be determined by seat measurements. If the vehicle is 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) and over and seat belts are not required, the designated seating positions (DSP) will be determined by measuring the back of a straight bench seat and the knee bend area of a curved bench seat and computing the number of 18 inch seating positions.
- 1.2 **“Correction Card”** means a vehicle inspection form issued by an Inspector for the purpose of identifying corrections that are required to be made and by what date.
- 1.3 **“Driver”** means a person holding a Public Vehicle Driver’s License which authorizes him or her to operate a permitted vehicle.
- 1.4 **“Limousine”** means any motor vehicle for hire not equipped with a taximeter, with the capacity for 15 passengers or less, including the driver. This definition consists of vehicles which are recognized by the industry as “luxury” vehicles, that are considered as high-end luxury vehicles by the manufacturer and vehicles that have been uniquely modified so as to provide “luxury” limousine service. The “luxury” quality of vehicles will be determined by assessing aesthetics of the interior and exterior of the vehicle, amenities provided to the passenger, spaciousness and comparison to current industry standards for vehicles performing limousine service in Hillsborough County. Unless otherwise indicated, use of the word “limousine” within these Rules shall be meant to include all varieties of limousines discussed in these rules, collectively. Limousines can be sub-categorized as follows:
- a. “Stretch Limousine” or a sedan/SUV model that was manufactured or remanufactured with an extended wheel base or;
  - b. “Limousine Sedans” or luxury vehicles with space for at least two passengers behind the driver and additional space behind those passengers for luggage, or;
  - c. “Sport Utility Vehicles” (SUV) that are top-of-the-line models and have the luxury package options included to provide a luxury service, or;
  - d. “Limousine Buses” that are used for passenger transport for-hire. These buses can have forward facing seating or can be modified for circular or “party” seating.
- The Director, subject to Commission review, may develop and update a list of vehicles which qualify as Limousine Sedans and SUVs.
- 1.5 **“Luxury Taxicab”** — A classification of taxicab operating at premium taxicab metered rates. Luxury taxicabs provide seating accommodations for not more than six (6) persons, including the driver and are recognized by the industry as luxury vehicles such as Cadillac, Lincoln, other similar top-of-the-line model luxury sedans or vintage classic sedans.
- 1.6 **“Manifest”** means a daily trip sheet approved by the Commission and completed by a driver listing required information.
- 1.7 **“Operate”** or **“Operating”** means causing a public vehicle to function on the roads, streets, or highways of Hillsborough County following or during the act of picking up a passenger at a location within Hillsborough County, for the purpose of transporting the passenger to any location inside the State of Florida. “Operate” or “Operating” does not include the following:
- a. A public vehicle transporting a passenger into Hillsborough County that was originally picked up outside of Hillsborough County, wherein the public vehicle remains with the original passenger by being continually contracted or hired and available on-demand to the original passenger, and not used or available to transport other passengers while waiting for

the continuation of the service. During the course of the service, the public vehicle may pick up additional non-paying passengers inside of Hillsborough County with the consent of the original passenger, provided the public vehicle remains with the original passenger for the duration of the contracted service.

- b. The discharge within Hillsborough County of any passenger picked up outside of Hillsborough County.
- 1.8 **“Rates”, “Fares” and “Charges”** means the rates, fares or charges as established or approved by the Commission to be paid by passengers for the transportation services provided by a certificate, permit, and license holder.
- 1.9 **“Special Act”** when used in the context of these Rules, means Chapter 2001-299, Laws of Florida.
- 1.10 **“Standard Taxicab”** means a classification of taxicab vehicle operating at standard taxicab metered rates or other special rates established or approved by the Commission.
- 1.11 **“Taxicab”** means any motor-driven vehicle, equipped with a taximeter, with a capacity for 9 or less passengers, including the driver, for the transportation of for hire passengers, which operates within the County, but does not include sight-seeing cars or buses, streetcars, or motor buses operated pursuant to a public franchise. Taxicabs can be one of two classifications: standard taxicab or luxury taxicab. Unless otherwise indicated, use of the word “taxicab” within these Rules shall be meant to include “standard taxicabs” and “luxury taxicabs”, collectively.
- 1.12 **“Time of Original Manufacture”** means the point at which a motor driven vehicle is first certified by the manufacturer as meeting Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and is considered a finished product or complete vehicle by the manufacturer or; for those vehicles considered as an unfinished product or incomplete vehicle by the manufacturer, the first time the vehicle is considered as finished and is certified as meeting Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards by a manufacturer’s approved alterer.

**Section 2**  
**Certificate**

- 2.1 Any person desiring to engage in the business of operating any public vehicle in the county must first acquire a certificate from the Commission and must make written application to the Commission on a form provided by the Commission for that purpose. Upon receipt of such application, the Commission staff shall investigate the facts stated in the application and fix a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the application. Not less than 20 days before the public hearing, the Commission staff shall provide notice of the date, time, and place of such public hearing, to each current Certificate Holder and notice that the pending application is available for inspection and copying at the office of the Commission. Any current Certificate Holder possessing a certificate to operate the same type of service being applied for by the applicant and any current Certificate Holder who can demonstrate financial interest may intervene in the public hearing process by filing a notice of intervention not later than five business days prior to the date of the public hearing and in such form and manner as required by the Commission.
- 2.2 Such public hearings may be held by the Commission as a whole, by a committee made up of its members appointed by the Commission for that purpose, or by a Hearing Officer as further provided by the Special Act and these Rules. The committee or Hearing Officer shall report findings and recommendations to the Commission for approval, disapproval, or modification. The Commission may conduct such further hearings and make such additional investigations as it deems necessary before taking final action. Unless otherwise indicated in the Rules, if application is for a new certificate, or if the application is for permits to operate additional vehicles under a certificate previously issued, the Commission shall determine, by the hearings and investigations whether or not public convenience and necessity will be promoted by the approval of the application. If the Commission determines that public convenience and necessity will not be promoted by approval of the application, then the application shall not be approved. If the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity will be promoted by the approval of the application, then the application shall be approved subject to any limitations or restrictions reasonably requested by the Commission.
- 2.3 The applicant has the burden of establishing whether public convenience and necessity require the operation of public vehicles proposed in the application.
- 2.3.1 Applicants requesting a certificate to operate limousines or van service, whose business operation is in a county other than Hillsborough, who demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that there exists a recurring need only to pick up passengers at Tampa International Airport and ports of entry within Hillsborough County, may be recommended by the hearing officer for a limited certificate that restricts operations to those areas.
- 2.4 Applicants requesting a certificate to operate a taxicab service based in an area designated as a restricted taxicab operation zone, who demonstrate public convenience and necessity to provide a restricted taxicab operation within the zone designated by the Commission, may be recommended by the hearing officer for a limited certificate that restricts operations to those zones. The Zone established for restricted taxicab operations is:

South-East Zone (SE Zone). The area that is south of Interstate 4, outside of the City of Tampa and Ybor City but, includes all of Plant City.

Taxicabs operating under a certificate for a former zone may continue to operate in said zone.

- 2.4.1 Any application for a certificate which is denied by the Commission shall not be resubmitted for review and consideration until a minimum of 12 months has elapsed, measured from the date the application was denied. However, the applicant may seek one reconsideration of the denial.
- 2.4.2 An initial application for a certificate must specify a requested number of vehicle permits as justified by the applicant's demonstrated public convenience and necessity. This number of permits may be adjusted downward prior to or during the public hearing by the applicant.
- 2.4.3 The Commission may at no time authorize more than one (1) taxicab type of service permit per each one thousand-nine hundred (1,900) inhabitants of Hillsborough County according to the most recent official estimate by the University of Florida, Population Division, Bureau of Economic Business Research. Taxicab permits restricted to operations in designated zones within the county do not fall under the formula addressed in this rule.
- 2.4.4 If all taxicab permits available under the 1 per 1,900 inhabitants cap have been issued or have been applied for, no additional applications for a taxicab certificate and/or vehicle permits will be accepted by the Office of the PTC until it is determined that additional permits are available. Once it is determined that additional permits are available, a time and date will be announced when applications for taxicab service Certificate and/or permits will be accepted by the Office of the PTC.
- 2.4.5 In the normal course of operation, the PTC will endeavor to process and consider applications in the order in which they are received. Following the PTC's formal announcement of available regular taxicab permits, which shall be made at a PTC regular meeting, completed applications for permits or a certificate and permits will be accepted until the close of business the day prior to the next regular PTC meeting. Each application will be scheduled for a hearing officer hearing and a Commission public hearing. If, after the Commission public hearings, the total number of permits approved by the Commission exceeds the number of available permits, the permits will be evenly distributed to the applicants until such time as the number of permits cannot be evenly distributed. At this point, a random drawing process will be conducted to determine which of the remaining applicants will receive the permits. If, during the period described above, the number of permits applied for does not exceed the number of available permits, then the applications will be processed in the order in which they were received.
- 2.4.6 If the results of the lottery are that the approved application is awarded no permits as a result of the lottery, the approved certificate will be immediately voided and the application fee will be returned.
- 2.5 Once an applicant is awarded permits as a result of the distribution, the applicant is immediately obligated to pay the annual permit fee for all awarded permits. A declination to accept any awarded permits will result in the entire application being voided and the permits awarded will be then available for other applicants.
- 2.6 Each certificate shall expire, unless expressly extended by the Commission or Director for good cause, on September 30 of each year, and shall be renewed, in the absence of any basis for suspension or revocation as outlined in Section 12 of these Rules, upon the timely receipt by the Commission staff of:
  - 2.7 Written certification by the certificate Holder of any material changes which may have

occurred with respect to the information provided in connection with the application(s) on file.

- 2.8 Any and all information required for application by the Commission at the time of renewal which was not required at the time of the initial application;
- 2.9 Payment of the prescribed renewal fee (see Appendix 1).
- 2.10 Any change in the ownership or control of a certificate requires the approval of the Commission. Procedurally, an application for ownership change must be submitted by the proposed new owner. The application will be reviewed by the Director and a subsequent staff recommendation will be submitted to the Commission for approval at a public meeting. Failure to acquire approval or subsequent disapproval of the ownership change may result in immediate revocation of the certificate.
- 2.11 With the express written consent of the Certificate Holder, however, a prospective transferee may, upon filing of an ownership change application with the Commission staff, enjoy the beneficial use of the certificate and the permits associated therewith until the Commission renders a final decision on the application, or for a period not to exceed one hundred and twenty days from the date the transfer application is filed, whichever is less.
- 2.12 The privilege of the beneficial use of a certificate extended to a prospective new owner pending final approval by the Commission of an application is expressly subject to and conditioned upon the consent of the new owner to abide by all obligations of the previous owner with respect to the Commission, any restrictions, limitations or conditions imposed on the certificate by the Commission, and any violation thereof by the prospective new owner shall be grounds for immediate revocation of the privilege.
- 2.13 Certificate Holders must comply at all times with applicable Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code, when applicable, and are subject to immediate suspension for any violation thereof.

### Section 3 Permits

- 3.1 Each Certificate Holder will be granted authorization for a specific number of vehicle permits. All vehicles must be inspected by the Commission staff to validate compliance with the respective vehicle standards and insurance requirements prescribed in these rules before the vehicle may be operated under a certificate.
- 3.2 It shall be unlawful to operate or to cause or allow the operation of any public vehicle without a valid permit or temporary permit or if the permit is suspended. Each permit shall expire, unless expressly extended by the Commission or Director for good cause, on September 30 of each year, and may be renewed upon the timely receipt by the Commission of:
  - 3.2.1 successful vehicle inspection(s);
  - 3.2.2 appropriate insurance certification;
  - 3.2.3 payment of the prescribed fees for certificate and permit(s) renewals (see Appendix 1).
- 3.3 The director, or interim director, may issue and reissue, for good cause and without the necessity of notice or public hearing, temporary permits to existing Certificate Holders provided that such temporary permits shall be issued for a period of time not to exceed 7 days and must be for the same type of vehicle service that the Certificate Holder is authorized. Upon showing of good cause, temporary permits may be reissued, but shall not be reissued more than four (4) successive seven-day periods without Commission approval. Issuance of a temporary permit pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not in any way be construed to estop the Commission from subsequently denying an application for a permanent permit. Companies applying for temporary permits must state the reason for additional permits and give the Commission Director factual information on the groups or clients and how the vehicles will be utilized. Prior to the issuance of such temporary permits, payment of the prescribed fees, proof of insurance and successful inspection of the vehicle in question must be complete.
- 3.4 In the event any public vehicle for which a permit has been issued becomes unsafe to operate or its body or seating facilities become so damaged, deteriorated or unclean as to render it unfit for public use, the Commission shall authorize the Director to suspend, without hearing, the permit until the condition is remedied. Further, the same summary suspension may take place in the case of basic life support ambulance(s) which fail for any reason to meet basic life support ambulance standards set forth in Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code. In conjunction with this suspension, the PTC staff may place an "Out of Service" sticker on the window of the suspended vehicle and this sticker may only be removed by the PTC staff when the suspension is lifted. The "Out of Service" sticker may not be disguised, altered or covered to hide it from the traveling public.
- 3.5 Each permit shall be separately numbered. The permit shall, at all times, be displayed according to these Rules.
- 3.6 Permits shall not be transferable or assignable between Certificate Holders unless the certificate and all associated permits under that certificate are transferred due to a certificate ownership change per Section 2 of these rules. A Certificate Holder may transfer a permit between vehicles upon approval of the Commission and payment of the prescribed fee (See Appendix 1). The Director may approve such intra-certificate permit transfers where the permitted vehicle has been wrecked, disabled, or otherwise rendered unusable.

- 3.7 A vehicle must be physically presented before a permit will be issued.
- 3.8 After a permit has been issued, no vehicle shall be reconstructed, altered or modified without approval of the Commission. This includes extra lights or other ornaments attached to the vehicle. The Director may, however, approve changes to vehicle color schemes, notifying the Commission of said approval at its next public meeting, or as soon thereafter as practicable.
- 3.9 A metal plate and/or permit decal will be issued for each vehicle that has been approved. For standard taxicabs, the permit plate shall be affixed to the lower left trunk lid or on the left rear bumper and/or the permit decal on the inside of the front windshield on driver's side, only on the vehicle for which it is issued. An issued permit plate shall be affixed to the lower left rear door or on the left rear bumper of a van, handicab or basic life support ambulance and/or the permit decal on the inside of the front windshield on driver's side, only on the vehicle for which it is issued. A metal permit plate will be issued to a limousine and it should be retained in the vehicle and/or the permit decal on the inside of the front windshield on driver's side, only on the vehicle for which it is issued. A permit plate issued to a luxury taxicab shall be displayed in the lower left side of the rear window of the vehicle and/or the permit decal on the inside of the front windshield on driver's side, only on the vehicle for which it is issued. A validation decal sticker shall also be issued and shall be affixed to the lower left section on the rear window of the limousine and the front left of the windshield of all other vehicles, if the new permit decal is affixed all vehicles will display the validation sticker in the same fashion as limousines.
- 3.10 A Certificate Holder may apply for additional permits in accordance with the procedures set forth in these Rules on the condition that the Certificate Holder has no current authorized permits which are not in use at the time the application is submitted. The additional permits will be issued only to vehicles within the same type of service for which the original certificate was issued. In the case of taxicabs, the additional permits will only be issued within the same classification for which the original certificate was issued. For Certificate Holders who hold more than one certificate, application for additional permits must be made separately for each such certificate. The requirements and procedures of Section 2.2 shall apply to each application for additional permit(s) issued pursuant to this section, except:
- 3.10.1 Applications submitted pursuant to this section for two (2) additional permits or less, to which no other Certificate Holder has filed a notice of intervention, shall be reviewed by the Director and brought before the Commission at a Commission Public Hearing scheduled for this purpose. Notice of said hearings will be provided under the procedures set forth in these Rules. In the event any Certificate Holder files a notice of intervention as described in Rule 2.2, the Director of the Commission will schedule a Hearing Officer for the Public Hearing on the Application pursuant to Section 2 of these Rules.
- 3.10.2 Applications for two (2) additional permits or less must wait twelve (12) months before submitting another application for two (2) additional permits or less under the same certificate. The twelve (12) month period will begin at the Commission meeting when the application is denied or approved.
- 3.11 Fees for additional permit applications, permit fees and hearing officer costs are explained in the appendices of these Rules.
- 3.12 All authorized permits not affixed or issued to a vehicle within one (1) year from the date it is

authorized may be declared forfeited by the Commission at a public meeting. Prior to any such forfeiture action by the Commission, the Certificate holder shall be provided with written notice at least 20 days in advance of the public meeting, delivered personally or mailed to the address of the Certificate Holder on file with the Commission, and the Certificate Holder shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard at the public meeting.

- 3.13 If a vehicle is sold or otherwise disposed of and out of the operational control of the Certificate Holder, the Certificate Holder is required to ensure that the metal vehicle permit is removed and returned to the PTC. The Certificate Holder must also ensure that permit stickers on limousines must be removed from the vehicle and disposed of.

**Section 4**  
**Insurance**

4.1 Each Certificate Holder shall at all times maintain Business Automobile Liability insurance providing for bodily injury and property damage liability coverage on each permitted vehicle in an amount not less than:

Taxicabs: \$300,000.00 combined single limit (CSL) each accident or split limits of \$125,000.00 bodily injury each person and \$300,000.00 each accident and \$50,000.00 property damage each accident.

Limousines: \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit (CSL) each accident or split limits of \$500,000.00 bodily injury each person and \$1,000,000.00 each accident and \$100,000.00 property damage each accident.

Handicabs: \$300,000.00 combined single limit (CSL) each accident or split limits of \$125,000.00 bodily injury each person and \$300,000.00 each accident and \$50,000.00 property damage each accident.

Vans: \$300,000.00 combined single limit (CSL) each accident or split limits of \$125,000.00 bodily injury each person and \$300,000.00 each accident and \$50,000.00 property damage each accident.

Basic Life Support Ambulances: \$300,000.00 combined single limit (CSL) each accident or split limits of \$125,000.00 bodily injury each person and \$300,000.00 each accident and \$50,000.00 property damage each accident.

4.2 A Certificate of Insurance must be executed and filed with the Commission by the insurance carrier or its authorized representative prior to the issuance or renewal of a vehicle permit. The insurance carrier must be qualified as an insurance company authorized to transact business in the State of Florida. The insurance carrier shall issue and forward directly to the Commission an original certificate of insurance, on a form provided or approved by the Commission. If a Certificate holder has more than one insurance policy for vehicles operated under a single Certificate, the policies must have the same expiration date.

4.3 An insurance carrier schedule of all vehicles covered by the insurance policy must accompany the Certificate of Insurance. A change certificate must be provided to the PTC from the authorized insurance representative when vehicles are added or deleted. The PTC Certificate Holder must be a named insured on any insurance policy maintained to satisfy the requirements of this section.

4.4 The insurance carrier must certify that the policy will not expire or be cancelled unless a thirty (30) days prior written notice is provided to the Commission by the insurance company; said thirty (30) day notice shall be deemed to commence from the date the notice is actually received at the office of the Commission and kept on file. The insurance policy must be endorsed to this effect.

- 4.5 The validity of any certificate granted or renewed hereunder is expressly conditioned on the maintenance of all insurance coverage required under these Rules. The failure of a Certificate Holder to maintain valid insurance as required by these rules shall result in the automatic suspension of the certificate without a hearing. The suspension shall be lifted upon receipt by the Commission staff of proper evidence of the valid requisite insurance and the payment of a reinstatement fee by the Certificate Holder. The amount of the fee is listed in Appendix 1 of these Rules.
- 4.6 The PTC Certificate Holder shall provide a Certificate of Insurance to the Commission staff at any time upon reasonable request.
- 4.7 Certificate Holders will provide the Office of the PTC a Certificate of Insurance for Worker's Compensation Insurance in those instances where this insurance is required by Chapter 440, Florida Statutes. Those Certificate Holders who are not required to carry Worker's Compensation Insurance per Chapter 440, Florida Statutes, will submit a letter to the PTC explaining why they are not required to carry this insurance.
- 4.8 Failure to comply with the provisions of this section may result in the suspension of the Certificate Holder's certificate pending full compliance and the payment of a reinstatement fee by the Certificate Holder. The amount of the fee is listed in Appendix 1 of these Rules.

**Section 5**  
**Public Vehicle Driver's License**

- 5.1 No person shall operate, cause another to operate, or allow another to operate a public vehicle unless the driver has a current public vehicle drivers license. The person shall also have a motor vehicle operator's permit as required by the State of Florida. Applicant must present an original Social Security card, U.S. passport, valid residence card or authorization to work in the United States. A suspension, expiration or revocation of a motor vehicle operator's permit or residence card or authorization to work in the United States shall result in an immediate suspension of the driver's PVDL until such time as the suspension is removed or authorization is reissued.
- 5.2 Application for the license must be fully completed by the applicant and signed by the Certificate Holder for which that driver will drive and the applicant must present the application in person to the office of the Commission for processing.
- 5.3 Application, obtained from the Certificate Holder, shall provide general information under oath (notarized), on forms supplied by the Commission.
- 5.4 The applicant shall have a photograph and fingerprints taken at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) located at Falkenburg Road. These documents will be provided to the PTC by the HCSO and maintained in the driver's file.
- 5.5 As a result of the health information provided by the applicant in the PVDL application, the applicant may be required to submit an additional health certificate completed and signed by a physician licensed in accordance Florida Statutes.
- 5.6 The submission of a PVDL application authorizes any physician, person, or agency having knowledge of any mental or physical impairment which may affect the applicant or driver's ability to drive to report such knowledge to the Commission.
- 5.7 Upon receiving any report concerning a driver's alleged physical or mental impairment of the ability to safely operate a vehicle for hire, the Commission shall require an investigation into the charges and may require written certification by a physician before making a final determination as to the driver's fitness to hold a license. Such certification shall be at the driver's expense.
- 5.8 Each applicant shall submit the prescribed non-refundable license fee (See Appendix 1) along with the application.
- 5.9 The Commission shall issue a public vehicle drivers license when it is shown that the applicant is duly qualified, of good moral character, of sound health and otherwise meets the requirements of the law. The Commission may consider the following factors in determining whether an applicant is duly qualified:
  - 5.9.1 Whether the applicant demonstrates the ability to communicate with the public by being able to speak, read and write the English language; and
  - 5.9.2 Whether applicant demonstrates the capacity to transport the public in a vehicle for hire by showing that the applicant is knowledgeable of these Rules and of the geography of Hillsborough County.
- 5.10 No person shall be issued a license who is addicted to the use of narcotics or intoxicating liquors.

- 5.11 No person shall be issued a license who is on probation or parole for a felony or misdemeanor, who is covered by diplomatic immunity, who has less than 6 months' driving experience or who is less than the age of majority.
- 5.12 The Commission may deny a license to a person who has been convicted of a felony, a sex offense including conviction as a sexual offender or has been found to be a sexual predator as provided in Florida Statutes, soliciting for or engaging in prostitution, an alcohol or narcotics offense, drunkenness, violation of the gambling laws, a crime involving moral turpitude, or repeated violations of the motor vehicle laws.
- 5.13 The Commission may, in order to protect the public, deny a license to operate a vehicle for hire to an applicant whose Florida drivers' license has been suspended or revoked within the past eight (8) years for: driving while under the influence of alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs, reckless driving, or exceeding the point limit set by the Drivers License Division of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- 5.14 Any application for a certificate which is denied by the Commission shall not be resubmitted for review and consideration until a minimum of 12 months has elapsed, measured from the date the application was denied. However, the applicant may seek one reconsideration of the denial.
- 5.15 Each driver is to be given a copy of the Rules of the Commission and must sign a receipt for them before a license is issued.
- 5.16 Licenses maybe renewed for a one-year period during licensee's birth month provided that:
  - 5.16.1 The Commission's investigation of the driver's traffic (DUI's or license suspensions) and criminal record reveals no violations during the period of his expiring license. If the investigation reveals such violations, the license shall be renewed for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days. The Director shall, after review of the driver's traffic and criminal record recommend either renewal, suspension or revocation as the safety of the public may dictate.
  - 5.16.2 The driver timely submits to the Commission any material changes which may have occurred with respect to the information provided in connection with the initial license application.
  - 5.16.3 The driver timely submits to the Commission any and all information required by the Commission for license applications at the time of renewal which was not required at the time of initial license application;
  - 5.16.4 The driver pays the prescribed fee for license renewal (see Appendix I).
- 5.17 If a license becomes expired and is not renewed within twelve (12) months of the expiration date, the license shall not be renewed. Instead, a new application must be submitted for the Commission approval (refer to Rule 5.2 through 5.15).
- 5.18 Basic Life Support ambulance drivers and attendants shall comply with the requirements of these rules, Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code.
- 5.19 Handicab drivers shall have satisfactorily completed the following training: State certified standard first aid; State certified standard CPR certification; and defensive driving course

approved by the Commission. Copies of the training certificates or other evidence of training completion must be provided to the Commission at the time of application.

- 5.20 Upon leaving the employment of or discontinuation of an agreement to drive for a Certificate Holder or when a driver is placed on suspension by the Commission, the Public Vehicle Driver License is to be returned to the Commission Office where it will be retained on file until the driver gains employment with another Certificate Holder, completes the suspension period, or the PVDL expires.
- 5.21 It is important that any question regarding criminal history be answered completely and truthfully when completing the PVDL application or other required documents. Failure to do so may result in the denial of the PVDL.
- 5.22 An applicant determined eligible for a PVDL and subsequently arrested, charged, committed, and/or found guilty of any disqualifying offense (as listed above) shall immediately (5 calendar days) notify the Commission.
- 5.23 Persons believing that the Commission relied upon inaccurate information in making its decision shall contact the Commission within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the denial notification. The Commission may decline to consider information received beyond thirty days.
- 5.24 After an applicant has been denied a license, he or she may appeal that decision to the Commission at a public meeting by completing an appeal form provided by the Commission and by paying the fees associated with this appeal (see Appendix 1 Fees). Once a driver has been denied his or her appeal before the Commission, he or she may not reapply for a PVDL within twelve (12) months from the date the appeal was denied. However, the applicant may seek one reconsideration of the denial.
- 5.25 The director, or interim director, may issue and reissue, for good cause and without the necessity of notice or public hearing, temporary public vehicle driver's licenses provided that such temporary public vehicle driver's licenses shall be issued for a period of time not to exceed 7 days. Upon showing of good cause, temporary public vehicle driver's licenses may be reissued, but shall not be reissued more than four (4) successive seven-day periods without Commission approval. Issuance of a temporary public vehicle driver's licenses pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not in any way be construed as a commitment to issue an annual public vehicle driver's license. No action taken shall be construed to estop the Commission from subsequently denying an application for an annual public vehicle driver's license.

**Section 6**  
**Driver Duties**

- 6.1 All drivers shall be familiar and comply with the Florida Regulatory Traffic Laws.
- 6.2 No taxicab driver shall refuse or neglect to transport to any place in the County any orderly person willing to pay the prescribed fare, in advance, and no driver shall accept any additional passengers without consent of the passengers by whom the vehicle may have already been engaged.
- 6.3 Each driver licensed pursuant to these rules shall possess and display the PVDL in a manner that allows visibility of the license, at all times while driving his vehicle or while on duty as a vehicle driver and shall not operate a vehicle if the license is expired or has been revoked or suspended. The license will be clipped, badge-style, to the driver's shirt or outer garment or may be hung around the neck on a chain or string. The drivers of all types of service (taxicabs, limousines, BLS ambulances, handicabs and vans) will wear the PVDL license while on duty as a vehicle operator. The driver will allow a customer to review the PVDL upon request.
- 6.4 A driver shall not operate a vehicle if the vehicle permit or Certificate Holder's certificate has been revoked or suspended.
- 6.5 No driver operating a taxicab shall transport passengers without a properly sealed and operating taximeter with the flag down, meter running, and cruise light off (Does not apply if operating using an authorized flat rate. See Appendix 4)
- 6.6 Drivers shall keep their vehicle clean and orderly at all times.
- 6.7 Every driver having charge of a permitted vehicle shall be hygienically clean, well groomed and neat and clean in appearance and suitably dressed. Male drivers shall be clean shaven, and hair shall be neatly trimmed and groomed. If a beard or moustache is worn, it shall be well groomed and neatly trimmed at all times in order not to present a ragged appearance. The term suitably dressed shall be interpreted to mean:
  - 6.7.1 The driver, if male shall wear clean trousers or knee-length hemmed shorts, shoes and socks and a shirt with a collar, with or without a tie, Appropriate clean outer garments may be worn, if desired, over the collared shirt. Luxury taxicab and limousine drivers shall wear a collared shirt with tie (with or without jacket), trousers, socks and dress shoes.
  - 6.7.2 The driver, if female must wear clean trousers or knee-length hemmed shorts, slacks, shoes and an appropriate collar. Appropriate clean outer garments may be worn, if desired, over the collared shirt or blouse. Female luxury taxicab and limousine drivers must wear a collared shirt or blouse, with or without a tie, with or without a jacket, dress slacks or mid-calf hemmed skirt, socks/nylons and closed toed dress shoes.
  - 6.7.3 The following articles of clothing are not permitted to be worn as an outer garment when the driver, either male or female, is operating a permitted vehicle: t-shirts, underwear, tank tops, body shirts, swimwear, jogging suits, or similar types of attire. Also prohibited are swimming or athletic shorts, sandals, or any type of open-toed footwear. For females - no sheer blouses (able to see undergarments), skirts can not be shorter than mid-calf or have a spilt longer than

- 7 inches from the hem to the knee, blouse with buttons can not be unbuttoned more than 5 inches from neck.
- 6.8 No driver shall collect fares or compensation for transportation services other than at the approved rate for that Certificate Holder. The driver, if requested, shall furnish the passenger with a receipt stating the amount of the fare. Drivers working for a certificate holder who accepts and advertises credit cards must accept credit card for payment, provided it is an advertised card and charge is authorized when submitted.
- 6.9 No vehicle shall be driven unless the driver has satisfied himself that the vehicle is in good working order and that the vehicle meets the standards set forth in these Rules.
- 6.10 No driver shall knowingly transport any person to any place for the purpose of participation in any illegal activity.
- 6.11 A driver shall not use abusive language, nor be discourteous to passengers.
- 6.12 A driver will not use a cell phone, other than in a hands-free mode, while driving the vehicle.
- 6.13 A driver will ensure the vehicle's luggage compartment (trunk) and passenger compartment is clean and free of any item or substance that will damage, stain or otherwise harm a passenger's luggage or possessions.
- 6.14 A driver will not smoke cigarettes or cigars while a passenger is in the vehicle.
- 6.15 A driver will operate the vehicle's air conditioner at the request of the passenger, if not already operating.
- 6.16 Taxicab drivers must remain with their respective vehicles while the vehicle is at an official taxi stand, in line at the Tampa cruise terminals or in line at the TIA terminal.
- 6.17 Drivers shall immediately notify the Commission of each change of company or address.
- 6.18 No driver shall solicit passengers outside the jurisdictional area of the certificate under which he is operating.
- 6.19 No driver licensed by the Commission shall allow any vehicle in their possession to be operated by any person not duly licensed by the Commission and without specific authority from the Certificate Holder.
- 6.20 Basic life support ambulance drivers and attendants shall comply with the requirements of these rules, Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code.
- 6.21 Drivers must ensure that vehicle capacity, as defined by the vehicle manufacturer or modifier, is not exceeded.

**Section 7**  
**Procedure for Operation**

- 7.1 Each Certificate Holder shall keep accurate records of receipts from operations, other expenses, capital expenditures, and other operating information as may be required by the Commission. The Commission and its staff shall be allowed access to these records during normal business hours for the purpose of inspection or copying same.
- 7.2 Each Certificate Holder shall maintain a central place of business, at which place he shall provide a properly listed telephone number for receiving all calls for service, and at which central place of business he shall keep such business records and required manifests. It shall also be the responsibility of every Certificate Holder to keep on file at the office of the Commission a telephone number, where they may be reached at all times.
- 7.3 Each Certificate Holder shall adopt and use, after approval by the Commission, a distinctive, uniform color scheme for all taxicabs, vans, BLS Ambulances and handicabs operated pursuant to such certificate. Basic life support ambulances shall comply with Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code.
- 7.4 Taxicabs using any officially designated public standard taxi stand shall be in single file and faced in accordance with applicable traffic regulations. The driver of the taxicab at the head of the line shall accept as a passenger any orderly person who agrees to pay the proper fare; however, any person shall have the right to select any taxicab regardless of its position in the line. Upon the departure of any taxicab from the line, the vehicles in line shall move forward in order. The taxi stand will have a designated number of spaces available and this is the most allowed to remain at the stand. Luxury taxicabs are not authorized to use officially designated public standard taxicab stands.
- 7.5 Limousines, vans, and handicabs will operate as a prearranged service and shall not solicit "walk-up" passengers unless operating under contract, authority of or explicit agreement with the ownership or management of the location of the solicitation. When limousine or van operators are displaying signage for identification/customer contact purposes (such as at the airport or cruise terminal), the sign may advertise only in the name of the Certificate Holder and must contain a manifested passenger's or client's name in letters that are equal to or larger in size than the Certificate Holder's name on the sign. No additional language that could be perceived as solicitation of walk-up customers is permitted.
- 7.6 A limousine service is prohibited from combining separately contracted customers in a single trip or transfer (share-ride) unless each contracted customer is charged rates that meet or exceed the minimum established limousine rates.
- 7.7 Personal property left by a passenger in any vehicle shall, upon its discovery by the driver of the vehicle, be reported to and deposited at the office of the Certificate Holder where a record shall be maintained and the property held for the owner for a period of sixty (60) days, at the end of which time it shall be treated as abandoned property.
- 7.8 The Commission staff shall annually inspect all vehicles subject to the provisions of these rules and may inspect any vehicle at any time. The inspection shall make certain that the vehicle is in good working order for the safety and comfort of the passenger. The results of each inspection shall be recorded. Any vehicle failing to pass the inspection shall automatically have its permit

suspended until such time as the vehicle satisfactorily passes inspection. It shall be unlawful to operate or to cause to operate a vehicle with a suspended permit.

- 7.9 If a vehicle is found to be or is suspected, due to observation or customer complaint, to be in an unsatisfactory condition, the Commission staff will notify the Certificate Holder to immediately suspend the vehicle with guidance to have it report to the office of the Commission for inspection or to the Certificate Holder's location for repair.
- 7.10 Certificate Holders, or their representatives or independent contractors, shall not advertise by printed, electronic media or other means, to include business cards, in any name other than the name to which the certificate has been issued by the Commission. All such advertising in phone directories and similar publications shall include the certificate number issued to the holder by the Commission. Additionally, all such advertising shall specify what type of service may be lawfully provided under certificate from the Commission, i.e., limousine, van, taxicab, basic life support ambulance, wheelchair handicab and/or stretcher handicab.
- 7.11 No Certificate Holder, chauffeur, public vehicle operator or any other person shall directly or indirectly provide compensation in any form to any individual or entity or engage in any activity in connection with the payment of compensation for the right to pick up passengers or provide service from any hotel, motel, apartment, restaurant, nightclub, or any other business establishment, or public facility. This subsection does not apply to payment of compensation to governmental entities. The certificate and/or public vehicle driver's license for any limousine, van, taxicab, BLS ambulance or handicab service provider or vehicle operator/chauffeur shall be subject to suspension or revocation for violation of this rule.
- 7.12 Except for wrecker operators, Certificate Holders may contract with individual operators holding licensure as prescribed herein for the operation of its public vehicles, provided any such contractor is responsible for the operation and performance of any such subcontractor in accordance with the Special Act and these Rules.

## **Section 8 Vehicle Standards**

- 8.1 Taxicab Equipment Standards
  - 8.1.1 Taxicabs shall be subject to inspection by the Commission and other law enforcement officials.
  - 8.1.2 All taxicabs must have the following equipment installed and maintained in proper operating condition: brakes, tires, wheelcovers or hubcaps (all of the same type), horn, steering mechanism, windshield wipers, headlights, tail lights, tag light, interior lights, emergency flashing lights, cruise light, directional signals, exhaust system, rear-view mirror and side view mirror, speedometer, odometer, safety belts, air conditioning system, approved safety non-shatterable glass in the windshield and all windows, a taximeter approved by the Commission and two-way radio communication operating with the capability to dispatch twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
  - 8.1.3 Taxicab tires shall be considered unsafe if they have: any ply or cord exposed; any bump, bulge, or knot affecting the tire structure; any break repaired with a boot; a tread depth of less than  $\frac{2}{32}$  of an inch measured in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, or for those tires with tread wear indicators, the tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire; a marking “not for highway use”, or “for racing purposes only”; or such other conditions as may be reasonably judged to render it unsafe.
  - 8.1.4 The interior must be kept clean, sanitary, free from torn upholstery or floor coverings and from damaged or broken seats.
  - 8.1.5 Door hinges and latches must be in good mechanical working order and all doors must operate easily and close securely;
  - 8.1.6 The vehicle must be structurally sound and operate with a minimum of noise and vibration;
  - 8.1.7 The body, fenders, doors, trim, grill, and paint must be reasonably free from cracks, breaks, dents and fading that would impair the safety or appearance of the vehicle.
  - 8.1.8 Vision from the vehicle must be unobstructed on all four sides.
  - 8.1.9 A standard taxicab must display a notice to passenger service standards decal approved by the Commission inside the left rear door window which must be visible from the back section of the vehicle.
  - 8.1.10 Luxury taxicabs must display a notice for passengers, approved by the Commission, that states the following: “This vehicle is a Luxury Taxicab and by regulation charges a rate higher than a Standard Taxicab. The operator is required to charge the metered rate”.
  - 8.1.11 A standard taxicab must display the company vehicle number (decal or painted) on the back of the front seat and must be visible from the back section of the vehicle.

- 8.1.12 A standard taxicab shall be five (5) model years old or newer when initially inspected to be placed in service. If a permitted vehicle is taken out of service for longer than thirty (30) calendar days, the vehicle will lose its status as a previously in-service vehicle.
- 8.1.13 A standard taxicab, if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the point of the annual inspection.
- 8.1.14 A luxury taxicab shall be five (5) model years old or newer when initially inspected to be placed in service. If a permitted vehicle is taken out of service for longer than thirty (30) calendar days, the vehicle will lose its status as a previously in-service vehicle.
- 8.1.15 A luxury taxicab, if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the point of the annual inspection.
- 8.1.16 Luxury taxicabs shall be a model of vehicle approved by the Commission as a luxury vehicle and shall be a sedan with 4 doors and a trunk with space to carry luggage for at least 2 people.
- 8.1.17 The taxicab Certificate Holder's trade name, taxicab number and telephone number must be permanently displayed upon both sides of the vehicles metal exterior with letters at least three inches (3") high. The taxicab number must be painted upon the outside rear panel of the taxicab in letters at least three inches (3") high. The color scheme for each vehicle in the fleet must match the approved version filed with the Commission. A taxicab service that has been approved for a geographically restricted Certificate must identify the assigned zone in 3" letters on the front right and left fender and rear of the vehicle (e.g., SE Zone or NW Zone).
- 8.1.18 A taxicab shall not be equipped with shades or curtains which can be manipulated in such a way as to shield the occupants or driver from observation or obstruct the view through the rear window.
- 8.1.19 All window tinting must conform with Florida State Statutes.
- 8.1.20 Any citizen band radio, scanner or other communication device capable of receiving a frequency assigned to taxicabs shall be prohibited.
- 8.1.21 Taxicabs will not display stickers on the bumpers, body or windows of the taxicabs unless expressly authorized by the Commission.
- 8.1.22 Taxicabs may display advertisements on the wheelcovers cosigning lower panels of side doors, rear window (provided it is see through) and vehicle roof-tops provided that the advertisement method does not create any safety hazards. PTC Staff may approve other displays on taxicabs only during special event(s) and for the sole purpose of advertising the special event(s) (ex. Super Bowl, ACC Bowl, Outback Bowl, NCAA Tournaments, Guavaween, Gasperilla, Conventions). No approval shall exceed fourteen (14) consecutive days.
- 8.2 Handicab Equipment Standards
- 8.2.1 Handicabs shall be subject to inspection by the Commission and other law enforcement officials.
- 8.2.2 A handicab may not be older than five (5) model years when initially inspected to be placed in

service. If a permitted vehicle is taken out of service for longer than thirty (30) calendar days, the vehicle will lose its status as a previously in-service vehicle.

- 8.2.3 A handicab, if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the point of the annual inspection.
- 8.2.4 The use of the term “ambulance” or “ambulatory service” shall not be used and no representations shall be made that any medical service is available. No emergency equipment other than a required fire extinguisher shall be carried.
- 8.2.5 All handicabs must have the following equipment installed and maintained in proper operating condition: brakes, tires, wheelcovers, horn, steering mechanism, windshield wipers, headlights, tail lights, tag light, interior lights, emergency flashing lights, cruise light, directional signals, exhaust system, rear-view mirror and side view mirror, speedometer, odometer, approved safety non-shatterable glass in the windshield and all windows, safety belts, an air conditioning system, two-way radio communication operating with the capability to dispatch twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, an inside rear-vision mirror which will enable the driver to view the passenger compartment, at the level at which the passengers ride.
- 8.2.6 Handicab tires shall be considered unsafe if they have: any ply or cord exposed; any bump, bulge, or knot affecting the tire structure; any break repaired with a boot; a tread depth of less than 2/32 of an inch measured in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, or for those tires with tread wear indicators, the tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire; a marking “not for highway use”, or “for racing purposes only”; or such other conditions as may be reasonably judged to render it unsafe.
- 8.2.7 The interior must be kept clean, sanitary, free from torn upholstery or floor coverings and from damaged or broken seats.
- 8.2.8 Door hinges and latches must be in good mechanical working order and all doors must operate easily and close securely.
- 8.2.9 The vehicle must be structurally sound and operate with a minimum of noise and vibration.
- 8.2.10 The body, fenders, doors, trim, grill, and paint must be reasonably free from cracks, breaks, dents and fading that would impair the safety or appearance of the vehicle.
- 8.2.11 Vision from the vehicle must be unobstructed on all four sides.
- 8.2.12 A handicab must display a notice to passenger service standards decal approved by the Commission inside the left rear door window which must be visible from the back section of the vehicle.
- 8.2.13 A handicab must display the company vehicle number (decal or painted) on the back of the front seat and must be visible from the back section of the vehicle.
- 8.2.14 The Certificate Holder’s trade name, handicab number and telephone number must be permanently displayed upon both sides of the vehicles metal exterior with letters at least three inches (3”) high. The handicab number must be painted upon the outside rear panel of a handicab

in letters at least three inches (3”) high. The color scheme for each vehicle in the fleet must match the approved version filed with the Commission.

- 8.2.15 A handicab shall not be equipped with shades or curtains which can be manipulated in such a way as to shield the driver from observation.
- 8.2.16 All window tinting must conform with Florida State Statutes.
- 8.2.17 All handicabs equipped for wheelchair transportation shall comply with the following:
  - 8.2.17.1 Each vehicle shall have a lift or ramp, operated manually, electrically and/or hydraulically, with sufficient capacity to safely and smoothly facilitate the entrance of passengers into the vehicle and exit from the vehicle.
  - 8.2.17.2 Each vehicle shall have, for each passenger transported two (2) positive means of securely latching or locking to the vehicle the wheelchair in which a passenger will ride. The latching device shall be designed to prevent any lateral, longitudinal or vertical motion of the passenger conveyance within the vehicle;
  - 8.2.17.3 Each vehicle shall have, for each passenger transported, restraining belts or straps designed to securely confine passengers to wheelchairs in which they are transported;
  - 8.2.17.4 Vehicle entry and exit doors shall be equipped with latching devices sufficient to restrain individual passenger conveyances within the passenger compartment of the vehicle;
  - 8.2.17.5 Each vehicle must have a minimum of fifty-six inches (56”) headroom from the finished floor to the finished ceiling in the passenger compartment, including door opening to allow for proper head clearance of the passenger seated in the wheelchair;
  - 8.2.17.6 The floor covering shall be seamless, one piece, permanently applied material, which can be maintained in a safe, sanitary and odor free manner, and shall extend the full length and width of the passenger compartment. Where side panels and covering meet at the joints and side walls, they shall be sealed and bordered with rustproof, corrosion-resistant cove moldings.
- 8.2.18 All handicabs equipped for stretcher transportation shall comply with the following:
- 8.2.19 Each vehicle shall have a crash stable side or center mounting style litter fastener of the quick release type.
- 8.2.20 Each vehicle will have at least two (2) strap type restraining devices provided per stretcher, cot, and litter to prevent longitudinal or transverse dislodging of the patient during transit.
- 8.2.21 Each vehicle must have a smooth floor which has a minimum of voids or pockets at the floor to side wall areas where water or moisture can become trapped.
  - 8.2.21.1 Each vehicle must have clean blankets, linen, or disposable sheets to be used for each patient.
  - 8.2.21.2 Each vehicle must have airtight storage compartments for soiled linen.
  - 8.2.21.3 Each vehicle must have two (2) attendants who are properly licensed by the Commission.

### 8.3 Van Equipment Standards

- 8.3.1 A van may not be older than five (5) model years when initially inspected to be placed in service. If a permitted vehicle is taken out of service for longer than thirty (30) calendar days, the vehicle will lose its status as a previously in-service vehicle.
- 8.3.2 A van, if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the point of the annual inspection.
- 8.3.3 A van shall be subject to inspection by the Commission and other law enforcement officials.
- 8.3.4 A van must have the following equipment installed and maintained in proper operating condition: Brakes, tires, wheelcovers, horn, steering mechanism, windshield wipers, headlights, tail lights, tag light, interior lights, emergency flashing lights, directional signals, exhaust system, rear-view mirror and side view mirror, speedometer, odometer, safety belts, air conditioning system, approved safety non-shatterable glass in the windshield and all windows.
- 8.3.5 Van tires shall be considered unsafe if they have: any ply or cord exposed; any bump, bulge, or knot affecting the tire structure; any break repaired with a boot; a tread depth of less than 2/32 of an inch measured in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, or for those tires with tread wear indicators, the tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire; a marking “not for highway use”, or “for racing purposes only”; or such other conditions as may be reasonably judged to render it unsafe.
- 8.3.6 Interior must be kept clean, sanitary, free from torn upholstery or floor coverings and from damaged or broken seats;
- 8.3.7 Door hinges and latches must be in good mechanical working order and all doors must operate easily and close securely;
- 8.3.8 Vehicle must be structurally sound and operate with a minimum of noise and vibration;
- 8.3.9 The body, fenders, doors, trim, grill, and paint must be reasonably free from cracks, breaks, dents and fading that would impair the safety or appearance of the vehicle;
- 8.3.10 Vision from the vehicle must be unobstructed on all four sides.
- 8.3.11 A van must display the company vehicle number (decal or painted) on the back of the front seat or any conspicuous place where it is visible from the back section of the vehicle.
- 8.3.12 The Certificate Holder’s trade name, van number and telephone number permanently displayed upon both sides of the vehicles metal exterior with letters at least three inches (3”) high. The van-limousine number must be painted upon the outside rear panel of the van in letters at least three inches (3”) high. The color scheme for each vehicle in the fleet must match the approved version filed with the Commission.
- 8.3.13 A van shall not be equipped with shades or curtains that can be manipulated in such a way as to shield the driver from observation.

- 8.3.14 All window tinting must conform with Florida State Statutes.
- 8.3.15 The Director may, on a temporary basis, not to exceed 60 days, waive the signage requirements for any van operating under a written contract for service upon receipt of a copy of the contract or other written statement signed by the contracting customer acknowledging and agreeing to the hiring of the van without requisite signage.
- 8.3.16 Vans may display advertisements on the rear of the vans provided that it does not create any safety hazards or permanently block the trade name, phone number or vehicle number.

#### 8.4 Limousine Equipment Standards

- 8.4.1 A limousine shall be subject to inspection by the Commission and other law enforcement officials.
- 8.4.2 A limousine sedan or SUV shall be five (5) model years old or newer when initially inspected to be placed in service. If a permitted vehicle is taken out of service for longer than thirty (30) calendar days, the vehicle will lose its status as a previously in-service vehicle.
- 8.4.3 A stretch limousine may not be older than five (5) model years when initially inspected to be placed in service.
- 8.4.4 A limousine sedan or SUV , if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the point of the annual inspection.
- 8.4.5 A stretch limousine, if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the time of annual inspection.
- 8.4.6 A limousine must have the following equipment installed and maintained in proper operating condition: Brakes, tires, wheelcovers, horn, steering mechanism, windshield wipers, headlights, tail lights, tag light, interior lights, emergency flashing lights, directional signals, exhaust system, rear-view mirror and side view mirror, speedometer, odometer, safety belts, air conditioning system, approved safety non-shatterable glass in the windshield and all windows.
- 8.4.7 Limousine tires shall be considered unsafe if they have: any ply or cord exposed; any bump, bulge, or knot affecting the tire structure; any break repaired with a boot; a tread depth of-less than  $\frac{2}{32}$  of an inch measured in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, or for those tires with tread wear indicators, the tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire; a marking “not for highway use”, or “for racing purposes only”; or such other conditions as may be reasonably judged to render it unsafe.
- 8.4.8 Interior must be kept clean, sanitary, free from torn upholstery or floor coverings and from damaged or broken seats.
- 8.4.9 Door hinges and latches must be in good mechanical working order and all doors must operate easily and close securely.
- 8.4.10 The vehicle must be structurally sound and operate with a minimum of noise and vibration.

- 8.4.11 The body, fenders, doors, trim, grill, and paint must be reasonably free from cracks, breaks, dents and fading that would impair the safety or appearance of the vehicle.
- 8.4.12 Vision from the vehicle must be unobstructed on all four sides.
- 8.4.13 A limousine must display the vehicle permit sticker in the left-hand bottom of the rear windshield. The front “courtesy plate” on the limousine cannot have the name of a limousine service provider other than the name of the Certificate Holder.
- 8.4.14 A limousine shall not be equipped with shades or curtains which can be manipulated in such a way as to shield the driver from observation from the side or front windows.
- 8.4.15 All window tinting must conform with Florida State Statutes.
- 8.4.16 Limousines may not be re-configured, mechanically or electrically, from its original design to enable a taximeter to be installed or operated.
- 8.4.17 The company name must be displayed on the side or rear of the vehicle in permanent letters that contrast with the vehicle color and are not less than **1/2** inch high. Front “courtesy plates” and magnetic signs or easily removable letters will not meet this requirement.
- 8.5 Basic Life Support Ambulance Standards
- 8.5.1 Basic Life Support Ambulances shall be subject to inspection by the Commission and other law enforcement officials.
- 8.5.2 A BLS ambulance may not be older than five (5) model years when initially inspected to be placed in service. If a permitted vehicle is taken out of service for longer than thirty (30) calendar days, the vehicle will lose its status as a previously in-service vehicle.
- 8.5.3 A BLS ambulance , if currently permitted, cannot exceed ten (10) model years at the point of the annual inspection.
- 8.5.4 All basic life support ambulances must have the following equipment installed and maintained in proper operating condition: Brakes, tires, wheelcovers, horn, steering mechanism, windshield wipers, headlights, tail lights, tag light, interior lights, emergency flashing bights, directional signals, back-up lights, back-up audible signal, parking lights, rear-view mirror and side view mirror, speedometer, odometer, safety belts, a spare tire, equipment to change a tire and one set of battery jumper cables, an operable air conditioning system and exhaust system.
- 8.5.5 BLS ambulance tires shall be considered unsafe if they have: any ply or cord exposed; any bump, bulge, or knot affecting the tire structure; any break repaired with a boot; a tread depth of less than  $\frac{2}{32}$  of an inch measured in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, or for those tires with tread wear indicators, the tire shall be considered unsafe if it is worn to the point that the tread wear indicators contact the road in any two tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire; a marking “not for highway use”, or “for racing purposes only”; or such other conditions as may be reasonably judged to render it unsafe.
- 8.5.6 Interior must be clean, sanitary, free from torn upholstery or floor coverings and from damaged or broken seats.

- 8.5.7 Door hinges and latches must be in good mechanical working order and all doors must operate easily and close securely.
- 8.5.8 Vehicle must be structurally sound and operate with a minimum of noise and vibration.
- 8.5.9 The body, fenders, doors, trim, grill, and paint must be reasonably free from cracks, breaks, dents and fading that would impair the safety or appearance of the vehicle.
- 8.5.10 Vision must be unobstructed on all four sides.
- 8.5.11 All vehicles must be equipped with approved safety non-shatterable glass in the windshield and all windows. All the glass windows should function efficiently.
- 8.5.12 The interior seats of all basic life support ambulances shall be of a leather or similar non-absorbent washable material and shall be kept clean and free of stains, rips and tears.
- 8.5.13 A basic life support ambulance must display the company vehicle number (decal or painted) at least 3" high that is visible from the back section of the vehicle.
- 8.5.14 The Certificate Holder's trade name, basic life support ambulance number and telephone number must be permanently displayed upon both sides of the vehicles metal exterior with letters at least three inches (3") high. The basic life support ambulance number must be painted upon the outside rear panel of a basic life support ambulance in letters at least three inches (3") high;
- 8.5.15 BLS ambulance radio communications systems must comply with the requirements of Florida Statutes.
- 8.5.16 In addition to the above mentioned rules, the basic life support ambulance shall adhere to the requirements of Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code.

**Section 9**  
**Rates (Fares)**

- 9.1 It shall be unlawful for any Certificate Holder, or driver to charge, demand, or request any fare that violates the rates established pursuant to these rules.
- 9.2 Provisions of these rules shall not apply to gratuities.
- 9.3 The Commission shall reserve the right to fix and approve rates for all regulated services. As used in this section (See appendix 4 for current established rates):
  - 9.3.1 The term '*fix*' shall mean any action of the Commission to determine the rates, fares, or charges generally applicable to any type of service certificate, including, but not limited to, minimums, maximums and schedules.
  - 9.3.2 The term '*approve*' shall mean any action of the Commission causing ratification of any rates, fares, and charges proposed by the certificate holder, whether or not rates, fares, or charges generally applicable to the type of service certificate have been fixed by the Commission.
- 9.4 Rates shall be established or changed in accordance with the following procedure:
  - 9.4.1 The Commission may consider requests to establish a rate or to change a rate change from any Certificate Holder or member of the public.
  - 9.4.2 The Commission may require the staff to hold public workshops to gather information from the public and the respective industry.
  - 9.4.3 The Commission may request research from staff or other sources to gather information related to proposed rate changes.
  - 9.4.4 The Commission shall hold a public hearing to take hear public input and make a determination on proposed rate change(s).
- 9.5 The Commission may, upon request by a certificate Holder, create special rates for providing specialized services.
- 9.6 Certificate Holders shall be required to file their rates with the Commission at the time of application and also may be required to post their rates inside the passenger compartment of each vehicle operating under permit from the Commission. For taxicabs the rate shall be the same as that rate for which the taximeter is calibrated. Certificate Holders may not change the rate charged to passengers without filing with the Commission a letter of intent to do so not less than sixty (60) days prior to such change going into effect. Such notice shall be by certified mail, addressed to the Commission and all Certificate Holders. Such change shall become effective upon approval by the Commission.
- 9.7 Except in the case of minors or other incapacitated persons, passengers are ordinarily expected to pay their own fares directly. No commercial business may, directly or indirectly, subsidize a fare for any passenger through any contractual or other arrangement with a Certificate Holder, Permit Holder, or driver licensed under these Rules with the intent, purpose, or effect of circumventing the rates, fares, or charges established by the Commission with respect to any form of transportation under its jurisdiction.

**Section 10**  
**Taximeters**

- 10.1 Each taxicab shall be equipped with a taximeter approved by the Commission. It shall be unlawful to operate any taxicab unless its taximeter has been inspected and found to be accurate and in satisfactory operating condition by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Director shall suspend a taxicab permit if the taximeter is found to be defective or inaccurate. Such permit suspension shall remain in effect until the defective taximeter has been replaced or repaired to the satisfaction of the Director. The Director may approve the lifting of any such suspension where the defective taximeter has been repaired or replaced. The Director may invalidate the reinstatement of a permit if the taximeter is again found to be defective or inaccurate.
- 10.2 The Commission staff shall inspect all taxicab taximeters annually to assure compliance with these rules.
- 10.3 The face of the taximeter shall illuminate and be visible from the passenger compartment so that passengers may ascertain the amount of the fare.
- 10.4 No taxicab shall be operated unless the taximeter has been sealed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 10.5 It shall be unlawful for any person to tamper with, mutilate or break any taximeter or the seal thereon.
- 10.6 The cruise light, operating in conjunction with a taximeter shall indicate that the taxicab is vacant. The cruise light shall be off when the taximeter is on.
- 10.7 A taxicab with a transferred taximeter shall not be used to transport passengers unless the taximeter has been inspected, tested and sealed as required by these rules.

**Section 11**  
**Manifest**

- 11.1 Every driver shall maintain a daily manifest, otherwise known as a trip sheet, upon which they shall promptly and legibly record the following information: name of driver, vehicle number, year, month, date, the starting time, place of origin and destination of each trip during a driver's operating period.
- 11.2 The manifest forms shall be furnished to the driver by the Certificate Holder.
- 11.3 Manifests shall be collected weekly by the Certificate Holder and maintained for one (1) year. Certificate Holders shall not destroy, mutilate, alter or otherwise deface daily manifests without approval by the Commission. Manifests shall be available for inspection and/or copying by the Commission during regular business hours.
- 11.4 All trips dispatched by Certificate Holder shall be immediately recorded on a dispatch ticket indicating the time, date and origin of each trip dispatched.
- 11.5 All dispatch tickets shall be maintained by the Certificate Holder for at least thirty (30) days.
- 11.6 A systematic method of filing the daily manifests shall be established and maintained by the Certificate Holder so that any individual manifest may be easily located by the driver's license number, vehicle number, date, time of trip and permit number of the vehicle.
- 11.7 No Certificate Holder shall allow a driver to operate any vehicle unless the manifest for the preceding week has been correctly prepared and filed.

**Section 12**  
**Suspension, Revocation, Conditions, Probations and Citations**

- 12.1 Certificates, permits, and licenses shall be subject to suspension, revocation, probation, citation or other conditions set by the Commission as follows:
  - 12.1.1 Certificates, upon notice and hearing (see appendix 3 for hearing procedures) when it shall appear that:
    - 12.1.1.1 The Certificate Holder has failed to render the service authorized by the certificate.
    - 12.1.1.2 The certificate was obtained by an application in which any fact was intentionally omitted or falsely stated.
    - 12.1.1.3 The Certificate Holder thereof has intentionally permitted his vehicle to be operated in violation of any law.
    - 12.1.1.4 The Certificate Holder has failed to comply with or has violated any of the provisions of these rules.
    - 12.1.1.5 The Certificate Holder has operated or caused his drivers to operate beyond the operating limits specified upon approval of the certificate by the Commission.
    - 12.1.1.6 The Certificate Holder has failed to receive Commission approval for a change of ownership or change of control of a certificate.
    - 12.1.1.7 The Certificate Holder has failed to pay the civil penalties in the time prescribed in the citation that has not been contested in the manner described in these Rules.
  - 12.1.2 Permits, upon notice and hearing (see appendix 3 for hearing procedures) when it shall appear that:
    - 12.1.2.1 The permit was obtained by an application in which any fact was intentionally omitted or falsely stated.
    - 12.1.2.2 The Certificate Holder has failed to comply with the provisions of these rules or any order of the Commission.
    - 12.1.2.3 The Certificate Holder has operated or caused his drivers to operate beyond the operating limits specified upon approval of the certificate by the Commission.
    - 12.1.2.4 The Certificate Holder has failed to pay the civil penalties in the time prescribed in the citation that has not been contested in the manner described in these Rules.
  - 12.1.3 Licenses, upon notice and hearing (see appendix 3 for hearing procedures) when it shall appear that:
    - 12.1.3.1 The driver has failed to comply with or has violated any of the provisions of these rules.
    - 12.1.3.2 The driver has been convicted, plead guilty, or nolo contendere to an alcohol related offense, or a crime involving moral turpitude.

- 12.1.3.3 The license was obtained by an application in which any fact was intentionally omitted or falsely stated.
- 12.1.3.4 The driver has picked up a passenger outside the operating limits specified upon approval of the certificate by the Commission.
- 12.1.3.5 Repeated violations of the motor vehicle laws.
- 12.1.3.6 The Licensee has failed to pay the civil penalties in the time prescribed in the citation that has not been contested in the manner described in these Rules.
- 12.1.4 The public vehicle driver's license is revoked and shall be immediately surrendered upon conviction or a plea of nolo contendere to any offense involving: commission of a felony, a sex offense, including conviction as a sexual offender as defined in Florida Statutes, or has been found to be a sexual predator as provided in Florida Statutes, soliciting for or engaging in prostitution, narcotics or an offense for which the penalty includes revocation of state motor vehicle operator's license.
- 12.2 Suspension is a temporary withdrawal of permission to operate pursuant to this section. The duration of the suspension will be established at the time of the suspension.
- 12.3 Revocation is a permanent withdrawal of the certificate, permit or license pursuant to this Section. The application process must be initiated to re-obtain a certificate, permit or license.
- 12.4 Notwithstanding any language in this section to the contrary, and if not prohibited by the Special Act, the Commission Director, with approval of the Chairman of the Commission, may, in circumstances in which it has been determined that there exists an immediate risk to public safety, immediately suspend, on a temporary basis not to exceed thirty (30) days, any certificate, permit, or license. Upon such temporary suspension, the Certificate Holder or licensee shall be promptly notified of the suspension in writing, either in person or by mail to the holder's last address in the records of the Commission. Unless the suspension is otherwise lifted, the Commission may conduct a public hearing (see appendix 3 for hearing procedures) to render a final determination whether the certificate, permit, or license shall be revoked or subject to other appropriate sanctions.
- 12.5 The issuance by the Commission of certificates, permits, and licenses may be conditioned on any reasonable requirement that the Commission may, in its discretion, establish; and the Certificate Holder or driver may be placed on probationary status by the Commission for any violation of these Rules, or for the violation of any law or regulation.
- 12.6 Citations; administrative hearings; persons aggrieved.
  - 12.6.1 Any alleged violator who has received a citation and wishes to contest the citation, may request an administrative hearing in front of a Hearing Officer by service of notice of appeal within twenty (20) days after service of a citation. The administrative hearing will be noticed and held in accordance with the procedures set forth in Appendix 3 of these Rules. The Commission, Director/Interim Director or Hearing Officer, may convene administrative hearings to abate, correct or assess civil penalties for a violation for which a citation has been served (See Appendix 5 for approved civil penalties guidelines).

**Section 13**  
**Drug Free Workplace**

- 13.1 This policy shall apply to Certificate Holders not otherwise subject to mandatory state or Federal Drug-Free Workplace provisions.
- 13.2 Every Certificate holder shall submit annually a statement of such date of dates the Commission may specify from time to time, certifying that it has in place a Drug-Free Workplace for employees and licensees in “safety-sensitive” positions. A “safety-sensitive” position shall be defined as one in which a drug or alcohol impairment constitutes an immediate and direct threat to public health or safety, or a position in which a momentary lapse in attention could result in injury or death to another person. “Safety-sensitive” positions shall include, but are not limited to drivers, dispatchers and mechanics. Every applicant for a certificate shall submit such a statement as a condition of each annual certificate renewal following initial submission of the Drug-Free Workplace statement.
- 13.3 At a minimum, the Certificate Holder must adopt in writing a detailed policy setting forth specifics of such a program which includes at least the following information:
- a. A statement of the Certificate Holder’s policy regarding drug and alcohol use by employees and licensees in safety-sensitive positions;
  - b. The job classification for which employees, licensees or job applicants are subject to testing;
  - c. The circumstances under which testing may be required;
  - d. The substances for which testing may be conducted;
  - e. The testing methods and collection procedures to be used;
  - f. The standards to determine what constitutes a positive drug test and what constitutes alcohol use;
  - g. The consequences of a refusal to participate in the testing;
  - h. The adverse action that may be taken based on the testing procedure or results;
  - i. The right of an individual to explain in confidence positive test results;
  - j. The right of an individual to obtain all information related to the testing of that individual;
  - k. Confidentiality requirements for the testing;
    - l. The available appeal procedures, remedies and sanctions;
    - m. The provision for an annual drug education program; and
    - n. The provisions for a Certificate Holder’s employee/licensee assistance program.
- 13.4 Each Certificate Holder must post notice of the policy in a prominent employee and licensee access area and give a written copy of the policy to each affected employee, licensee and applicant. Notice must be posted and the policy distributed, any time the policy is changed.
- 13.5 At a minimum, the following substances shall be tested: marijuana, opiates, phencyclidine, cocaine, amphetamines, and alcohol. The following substances may be tested at the option of the Certificate Holder: methaqualone, barbiturates, benzodiazepine, methadone, and propoxyphene.
- 13.6 Drug testing of employees and licensees shall be conducted in conformity with the standards and procedures established in Section 440.102, Florida Statutes. Specifically, and without limitation, standards for probable cause, laboratory security, chain of custody, transporting and receiving of specimens, specimen processing, retesting, storage of specimens, instrument calibration, reporting of results, and confidentiality provisions shall be in accordance with Section 440.102, Florida Statutes, and its attendant rules as established by the Agency for Health Care Administration. Only drug testing laboratories licensed by the State of Florida Agency for Health Care Administration may be utilized.

- 13.7 Testing to be conducted pursuant to this rule includes:
- a. Post accident testing - all drivers shall be tested immediately after any chargeable vehicular accident, or after a vehicular accident where probable cause exists.
  - b. Testing for cause - employees and licensees in safety-sensitive positions shall be tested if reasonable suspicion exists to believe the employee or licensee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which could adversely affect, or has affected, performance of duties and responsibilities.
  - c. Pre-employment or Public Vehicle Driver's License Applicant testing — every Certificate Holder shall require all job applicants for safety-sensitive positions to submit to testing prior to employment. In order to assure that every driver is tested, at a minimum, prior to receipt of the Public Vehicle Driver's License, present proof of negative testing before signing the application for a Public Vehicle Driver's License.
  - d. Testing after prior use and unannounced testing — An employee or licensee in a safety-sensitive position who has received a confirmed positive test result shall be required to satisfactorily complete the Certificate Holder's assistance program. Upon returning to work, the employee or licensee may be required to submit to periodic unannounced testing at reasonable intervals for a period of two years after the positive test.
  - e. Random testing — Because there is the likelihood that employees or licensees in safety-sensitive positions may harm the public if impaired by alcohol or drug use, all such employees and licensees shall be subject to random testing on an annual basis.
- 13.8 Every Certificate Holder shall require pre-employment and public vehicle driver's license applicant testing as provided in Section 13.7c. for the substances enumerated in Section 13.5.
- 13.9 Any employee or licensee in a safety-sensitive position who has received a confirmed positive test shall not be permitted by a Certificate Holder to operate a vehicle under the jurisdiction of the Commission or perform any job in which injury to the public could occur until the Certificate Holder determines that the employee or licensee has received treatment and has been assessed as capable of resuming work. Should any such employee or licensee receive a second confirmed positive test during periodic random testing during the two years following the initial positive test, the Certificate Holder shall immediately restrict the employee or licensee from operating any vehicle under the jurisdiction of the Commission or performing any job in which injury to the public could occur until further notice. The Certificate Holder shall, to the extent allowed by law, communicate all information related to any confirmed positive tests to the Commission Director immediately upon the termination or resignation of the employee or licensee.

**Section 14**  
**Waivers and Variances**

- 15.1 Any person who is subject to regulation by the Commission may file a petition with the Commission, on a form designated by the Commission, requesting a variance or waiver from the Commission's Rule. Each petition shall specify:
  - 15.1.1 The Rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
  - 15.1.2 The type of action requested;
  - 15.1.3 The specific facts that would justify a waiver or variance for the petitioner;
  - 15.1.4 The reason why the variance or the waiver requested would serve the purposes of the Special Act.
- 15.2 Within 30 days after receipt of a petition for a variance or waiver, the Commission staff shall review the petition and request submittal of all additional information required to process the petition. Within 30 days after receipt of such additional information, the Commission may request further information needed to clarify the additional information or to answer new questions raised by or directly related to the additional information.
- 15.3 The Commission shall grant or deny a petition of variance or waiver within 90 days of receipt of the original petition, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the petitioner's written request to finish processing the petition. A petition not granted or denied within 90 days as set forth above is deemed approved.
- 15.5 Variances and waivers shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the purpose of the Special Act will be or has been achieved by other means by the person and when application of a rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. For purposes of this section, "substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver. For purposes of this section, "principles of fairness" are violated when the literal application of a Rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the Rule.
  - 15.5.1 The Commission may limit the duration of any grant of a variance or waiver or otherwise impose conditions on the grant only as to the extent necessary for the purposes of the underlying statute or Rule to be achieved.

**Section 15**

**Lobbying by Former Members and Staff**

- 16.1 No regular or alternate member of the Commission, a Director, inspector, or other staff member of the Commission, or legal counsel to the Commission, may appear before the Commission as a petitioner or a lobbyist for a period of two (2) years after vacating such a position.

**Section 16**  
**Enforcement**

- 17.1 Any violation of these rules in addition to suspension or revocation shall be enforced and punished pursuant to Chapter 2001-299, Laws of Florida, which may constitute a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- 17.2 These rules may be enforced by the Commission, the Commission staff and other law enforcement officials. The Commission or Director may temporarily suspend a certificate, vehicle permit or public vehicle driver's license in order to complete an investigation, inspect a vehicle and/or ensure administrative requirements in order to enact the proper enforcement of these Rules. The temporary suspension will be lifted immediately upon completion of the task that required the temporary suspension.
- 17.3 The Commission may also secure enforcement of these rules by any legal action such as injunctive relief.
- 17.4 The Commission is authorized to issue warnings, citations and/or develop and issue a summons to appear before it to any person who shall violate any of these rules and may obtain from the State Attorney a warrant or capias for violation of these rules.

**Section 17**  
**Severability**

- 18.1 If any section, clause, provision, or portion of these rules is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of said rules shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 18**  
**Effective Date**

- 19.1 The provisions of these rules shall become effective upon approval and adoption by the Commission.

**Appendix 1**  
**Fees**

Fees shall be imposed by the Commission as follows:

1. The filing fee for the initial application for a certificate is one thousand dollars (\$1000.00). The filing fee for ownership change/transfer is five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The filing fee for additional permits under an existing certificate is five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The filing fee for applications for name/color scheme change and other significant administrative changes to the existing application is two hundred fifty (\$250.00).
2. Public hearing fee for a certificate must be paid by the applicant/intervenor. The fee is based on the complexity and the amount of time the public hearing takes to arrive at a conclusion. The minimum fee for the hearing will be six hundred dollars (\$600.00). The applicant will have responsibility for the minimum fee prior to the hearing, but if existing certificate holders officially intervene in the hearing process, they will assume responsibility for an equal share of all hearing fees.
3. The fee for the annual renewal of a certificate is three hundred dollars (\$300.00).
4. The annual fee for vehicle permits other than taxicabs is three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) per permit. The annual fee for taxicab permits shall be five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) per permit. Permits approved during the year will be prorated according to the fiscal year quarter in which they were approved. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter approvals will pay the full permit fee. 2<sup>d</sup> quarter approvals will pay three-fourths of the permit fee. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter approvals will pay one-half of the permit fee and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter approvals will pay one-fourth of the permit fee.
5. The fee for temporary seven (7) day permits and temporary public vehicle driver's licenses and renewals thereof shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per permit or public vehicle driver's license. However, four weeks prior to the start of a special event and for one week after the end of the special event, the fee for temporary seven (7) day permits and temporary PVDLs and renewals thereof shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per permit or PVDL. A Special Event is any event Tampa Bay & Co., formerly known as the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, estimates the attendance population to be greater than 50,000 people.
6. The permit fee for those approved to operate only at ports per vehicle entry is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per vehicle.
7. Permit transfer, replacement, or reinspection fee shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per vehicle.
8. The application fee for a public vehicle driver's license is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
9. The fee for renewal or replacement of a public vehicle driver's license is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for renewal and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for replacements.
10. The fee for replacing a lost correction card is twenty dollars (\$20.00).
11. All renewal fees for authorized permits, whether issued or not, and certificates must be paid prior to October 1 of each year, or as approved by the Commission or Director.
12. The fee for the reinstatement of a suspended Certificate is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
13. The fee for submitting an appeal of a PVDL denial is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
14. The fee for a Petition for Rule variance or waiver is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
15. Any annual renewal fee which is not paid on time, if accepted, can be assessed a late fee of 25% of the amount owed.

**Appendix 2**  
**Applications and Instructions**

1. Every application shall be completed per the instructions on the form(s) provided, signed, sworn to and notarized where applicable and shall be filed with the Commission.
2. The types of applications include:
  - a. application for certificate and permits (taxicab, limousine, van, handicab or BLS ambulance).
  - b. application for administrative change (name, ownership, location, other).
  - c. application for additional permits (taxicab, limousine, van, handicab or BLS ambulance).
  - d. application for a public vehicle driver license (PVDL).
3. The applicant shall have an affirmative duty to advise the Commission and its staff immediately of any changes to all information submitted in connection with any application prior to any public hearing on that application.
4. If the applicant is applying for a taxicab certificate, the applicant must designate whether the application is for a certificate to operate standard taxicabs or luxury taxicabs.
5. If the applicant is applying for a zone restricted taxicab certificate, the applicant must designate in which zone the applicant desires to operate.
6. Separate certificates shall be required for each type of service. Separate certificates shall be required for standard taxicab classification and luxury taxicab classification.
7. In the case of taxicabs, the applicant's entire fleet of vehicles must consist of only one classification, either standard taxicab or luxury taxicab and either zone restricted or not.
8. To convert a standard taxicab certificate to a luxury taxicab certificate, or vice versa, or a zone restricted certificate to a non-zone restricted certificate or vice-versa, a certificate Holder must submit an application for administrative change, but the application will be processed as if it is a new application for a certificate.
9. If the application to convert a taxicab certificate is denied, the applicant shall not forfeit its certificate to operate taxicabs within the classification currently held.
10. The applicant's fingerprints and photograph, shall be taken by the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office (HCSO) at Falkenburg Road, who will forward them to the Commission after processing.
11. Where the applicant is a business entity with more than one (1) principal owner, the designated executive officer is the only person required to have his fingerprints and photograph on file.
12. Each application shall be accompanied by an application fee which shall be non-refundable (See Appendix 1 Fees).
13. Disclosure of contract rights, options, or agreements, written or oral, which may affect changes in the ownership or control of the business of the applicant or the certificate sought by the applicant, or which could in any way materially affect the decision of the Commission relative to the issuance of the certificate to the applicant.

14. Disclosure of all owners in the case of general and limited partnerships, limited liability companies, joint ventures, closely held for-profit corporations (35 or less shareholders), or other business entities, except that corporations with more than 35 shareholders must disclose only those shareholders owning ten percent (10%) or more of the voting or dispositive shares in the corporation.

**Appendix 3**  
**Hearing Procedures**

Hearing Officer Public Hearings

1. Unless directed to schedule a committee public hearing, the Commission staff shall schedule a Hearing Officer public hearing and refer each application requiring public hearings to a hearing officer selected from a list of one or more hearing officers qualified by the Commission. In the circumstance that a committee is directed to hold the public hearing by the Commission, the hearing officer public hearing procedures described herein will apply and the chairman of the committee will lead the public hearing.
2. The Hearing Officer shall conduct public hearings per the procedures adopted in these rules.
3. All public hearings shall be recorded for public record. Any party to the procedures that desires an official Court Reporter may arrange for one and will be responsible for the cost.
4. The Hearing Officer, upon completion of the public hearing, shall submit findings of fact and recommendations to the Commission who may then, after a Commission public hearing, approve the hearing officer recommendation, disapprove the recommendation, or approve with such modifications, terms, or conditions as the Commission deems necessary.
5. Any Certificate Holder providing the type of service being applied for by the applicant, may submit an opinion about the pending application in writing. The written opinion must be received no later than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled hearing. An opinion may include relevant documentation in support thereof relevant documentation shall not include affidavits, declarations or sworn statements. Public records submitted in support of a written opinion shall be authenticated by seal or signature of an individual in his or her capacity which indicates that the records are true and accurate copies of the original. Any written opinion will be considered by the Hearing Officer in submitting his findings of fact and recommendations to the Commission.
6. Any Certificate Holder authorized to intervene per the Special Act, who wishes to present testimony or cross-examine witnesses at the public hearing must file a Notice of Appearance and Intervention with the Commission no later than 12:00 noon, five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. The Notice of Appearance and Intervention shall include; the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing the Notice of Appearance and Intervention; name, address, and telephone number of any representative or lawyer for that person; the names of all persons to be called as witnesses; and, the approximate amount of time needed to present testimony. The actual amount of time allotted each person filing a Notice of Appearance and Intervention to present testimony is within the authority of the Hearing Officer.
7. The following are general powers and duties of the Hearing Officer, as well as, rules and procedures which shall govern all Hearing Officer public hearings:
  - a. The public hearing will begin promptly at the time and date stated in the notice of the hearing, unless continued for cause.
  - b. Any person wishing to speak at the public comment portion of the public hearing, other than a person who filed a Notice of Appearance and Intervention, must enter his name on the speaker sign-up list. This must be done before the public hearing begins. The list shall

be placed at the entry to the room where the public hearing is being held, or at some other convenient and conspicuous place.

- c. The Hearing Officer will commence the public hearing and make opening statements as they deem necessary.
- d. Each person who places their name on the speaker sign-up list will be called to speak. Each speaker will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to speak. Each speaker will be called to speak in order in which their name appears on the speaker sign-up list.
- e. A speaker may be questioned by the Hearing Officer. No one other than the Hearing Officer shall question a speaker.
- f. The Hearing Officer may question the representative of the Commission present at the public hearing or legal counsel for the Commission, on the pending application, written opinions, testimony of any witness, and comments of any speaker. The Hearing Officer may question the Applicant on any matters related to the application and may request additional information from the Applicant deemed necessary to demonstrate public convenience and necessity will be served by granting the Application.
- g. The Applicant may present testimony and witnesses in support of the application at the public hearing. If the Applicant intends to exercise this option, the Applicant must so notify the Commission not later than 12:00 p.m., five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. Such notice shall include the names of all persons to be called as witnesses and, the approximate amount of time needed to present testimony. The actual amount of time allotted the Applicant to present testimony is within the authority of the Hearing Officer.
- h. The applicant may cross-examine the witnesses presented by persons filing a Notice of Appearance and Intervention. Persons filing a Notice of Appearance and Intervention may cross-examine the witnesses presented by the applicant. The Hearing Officer may examine any witness testifying at the public hearing. The amount of time allotted for cross-examination is within the authority of the Hearing Officer. Re-cross shall not be permitted, except by the Hearing Officer.
- i. All testimony shall be taken under oath of affirmation.
- j. Strict rules of evidence shall not apply, but evidence must be relevant to the issues and hearsay evidence shall be avoided whenever possible. Irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded, but all other evidence of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs shall be admissible, whether or not such evidence would be admissible in the courts of Florida. Hearsay evidence may be used only for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence, but it shall not be sufficient, in and of itself to support a finding unless it would be admissible over objection in civil actions. Any public records must be authenticated by a seal or signature of an individual in his or her official capacity which indicates that the records are true copies from a public record.
- k. The Hearing Officer may take such other appropriate actions he may deem necessary to obtain the information needed to complete his report and recommendation concerning the pending application, including continuing the proceedings and requesting the

Commission staff to conduct further factual investigation with respect to the pending application.

- l. All costs (Hearing Officer, public notice, court reporter if required, etc.) associated with the public hearing shall be the responsibility of the applicant in the absence of any intervention by one or more existing Certificate Holders. Otherwise, said costs shall be shared on a pro-rata basis between the applicant and each intervenor(s). The initial and minimum public hearing fee is listed in appendix 1 of these Rules.
- m. The original application and supporting documentation, all written opinions and supplemental documentation, evidence admitted at the public hearing, the transcript of the public hearing, and the original documentation setting forth the report and recommendation of the Hearing Officer, shall be maintained by the Commission staff in a separate file in custody of the secretary of the Commission. The file shall be open to inspection to the public at any time; however, members of the Commission should refrain from viewing any portion of the file until the Hearing Officer has issued his Report and Recommendation.
- n. Applicants seeking a limited certificate to operate limousines or vans at Tampa International Airport and ports of entry within Hillsborough County may establish public convenience and in demonstrating, by a preponderance of the evidence, that there exists a recurring need to pick up passengers at Tampa International Airport and ports of entry for which the limited certificate is sought, and that the applicant's business operation is in a county other than Hillsborough County.
- o. Applicants requesting a certificate to operate a taxicab service based in an area designated as a restricted taxicab operation zone, who demonstrate public convenience and necessity to provide a restricted taxicab operation within the zone designated by the Commission, may be recommended by the hearing officer for a limited certificate that restricts operation to that zone. The Zone established for restricted taxicab operations is:

South-East Zone (SE Zone). The area that is south of Interstate 4, outside of the City of Tampa and Ybor City but, includes all of Plant City.
- p. In that Florida Statutes section 427.0157 authorizes Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards (TDCB5) to address local service needs of the transportation disadvantaged, applications seeking a certificate limited to the provision of services to the transportation disadvantaged, as defined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes using transportation disadvantaged funds, and incidental to other social service, public convenience and necessity may be established if the following factors are satisfied:
- q. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization certifies to the Commission that the private nonprofit entity serves a transportation need within Hillsborough County which will assist in the provision of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective and efficient;
- r. If the applicant submits the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board certification with its application, the Hearing Officer and the Commission will presume necessity and focus its consideration at the public hearing to the private nonprofit applicant's financial status, character, and responsibility to provide, maintain and operate

the number of vehicles proposed to be operated in accordance with the character of service proposed in the Application;

- s. Notwithstanding the above, existing Certificate Holders may express an opinion regarding any aspect of the private nonprofit entity's application. Any opinions regarding the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board certification should be addressed to that Board. If the Commission members find it necessary, it will address any questions regarding the certification to the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
- t. Each certificate issued hereunder shall be signed by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, and shall contain, in addition to the name and address of the applicant, a statement of the type of service authorized and the number of permits authorized. The certificate shall also have stated thereon such additional conditions, and/or limitations as the Commission may deem necessary.
- u. The certificate will be provided to the applicant when all administrative requirements have been fulfilled, to include payment of permit fees. A copy of each certificate shall be filed with the Commission.

#### Commission Public Hearings

- 1. Commission Public Hearings shall be preceded by a minimum of twenty (20) days' written notice. After a public hearing has been opened, the Chairman or the Chairman's designee will oversee the proceedings. The Chairman will offer all parties an opportunity to present their positions. Legal representation shall be allowed for any party to present their position. The Chairman will offer any member of the public to speak towards the public hearing issue and the Chairman will set a time limit for all involved to present or speak at the hearing.
- 2. At least ten (10) calendar days before a Commission Public Hearing to consider an application for additional permits, a copy of the report and recommendation of the Hearing Officer shall be forwarded to the applicant, persons who submitted a written opinion and all certificate holders that filed a Notice of Appearance and Intervention.
  - a. Facts not presented to the Hearing Officer shall not be considered by the Commission at the Commission Public Hearing. However, if new and relevant facts are presented by the applicant to, and received by, the Commission staff at least three (3) business days prior to the Commission Public Hearing or otherwise upon a finding by the Commission that certain relevant facts do not appear to have been adequately ascertained at the public hearing, the Hearing Officer may be directed by the Commission to reopen the public hearing to consider or ascertain such facts.
  - b. The applicant, members of the public, and other certificate holders may speak at the public comment portion of the Commission Public Hearing provided that such comments are limited to the findings of fact and recommendations of the Hearing Officer.
  - c. Commission members shall base their decision solely on record evidence which was presented to the Hearing Officer, the report and recommendations of the Hearing Officer, and public comment at the Commission Public Hearing.

Commissioners should avoid any ex parte communication regarding a pending application.

#### Administrative Hearings

1. Administrative hearings shall be preceded by a minimum of twenty (20) days' written notice to participants. Notice may be by citation or a letter and shall specify the Commission's proposed action and the grounds upon which the action is predicated. The participants may be represented by legal counsel and shall be allowed to present a defense. Failure to appear at any noticed hearing may result in a waiver of due process rights and may result in a fine, suspension or revocation of certificate, permit(s) or license. All such hearings shall be recorded for public record. Any participant may bring a court reporter for that purpose at their expense. The Commission, director/interim director, or hearing officer shall promptly notify all participants of its decision and shall state the reasons therefore.
2. If an administrative hearing before the Commission is an appeal of an action of the director/interim director or hearing officer following contest of a citation, the following rules shall also apply:
  - a. Facts not presented to the director/interim director or hearing officer shall not be considered by the Commission at the administrative hearing. However, if new and relevant facts are presented to the Commission or otherwise upon a finding by the Commission that certain relevant facts were not adequately ascertained at the director/interim director or hearing officer hearing, then the Commission may direct that the director/interim director or hearing officer administrative hearing be reopened to consider or ascertain such facts.
  - b. Commission members shall base their decision solely on record evidence that was offered during the director/interim director or hearing officer administrative hearing and the written findings of the director/interim director or hearing officer.

**Appendix 4**  
**Rates**

1. Taxicabs Meter Rates: Standard taxicabs shall charge no more than:
  - a. Two dollars (\$2.00) for the first one-fifth (1/5) mile or any part thereof;
  - b. Forty-five cents (\$.45) for each additional one-fifth (1/5) mile or any part thereof;
  - c. Thirty cents (\$.30) for each minute of waiting time.
  - d. A fifteen dollar (\$15.00) minimum applies when the passenger(s) departs Tampa International Airport. The actual taximeter rate shall be the total rate once the taximeter exceeds the fifteen dollar (\$15.00) minimum.
  - e. There will be no additional charge for handling groceries
  - f. The amount of fare collected from any passenger shall not exceed that shown by the taximeter.
  - g. There shall be no prescribed rate for package delivery or messenger service when such goods or messages are transported without passengers.
  
2. Taxicabs Meter Rates: Luxury taxicabs shall charge:
  - a. Three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) for the first one-fifth (1/5) mile or any part thereof;
  - b. Fifty cents (\$.50) for each additional one-fifth (1/5) mile or any part thereof;
  - c. Forty cents (\$.40) for each minute of waiting time.
  - d. A fifteen dollar (\$15.00) minimum applies when the passenger(s) departs Tampa International Airport. The actual taximeter rate shall be the total rate once the taximeter exceeds the fifteen dollar (\$15.00) minimum.
  - e. There will be no additional charge for handling groceries.
  - f. There shall be no prescribed rate for package delivery or messenger service when such goods or messages are transported without passengers.
  - g. The amount of fare collected from any passenger shall not exceed that shown by the taximeter.
  
3. Taxicab Flat and Zone Rates (standard taxicabs only):
  - a. An “in-town short ride” zone is designated in the downtown Tampa area with the following boundaries: Howard Avenue, South of Kennedy, to the West; 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to the East; Interstates 4 and 275 to the North. This zone also includes: Tampa General Hospital on Davis Islands; Westin/Wyndham Hotel on Harbor Island; University of Tampa Campus and Stetson Law School Campus.
  - b. Two or more passengers. For standard taxicab trips that originate in and end in this

zone, regardless of route taken or delays enroute, a taxicab operator can charge a maximum \$3.00 per person for each passenger over the age of 12 years. The taximeter will not be operated during these trips. However, no trip will exceed \$12.00 regardless of the number of passengers.

- c. Single passenger trips. For standard taxicab trips carrying a single passenger and that trip originates in and ends in this zone, the taxicab operator can either operate the taxicab meter and charge that rate or charge a \$3.00 flat rate, but not both.
  - d. For those destinations outside of the zone (excluding the airport), the taximeter will be operated and that rate will apply and the \$3.00 per passenger rate is not permitted.
  - e. Standard taxicabs may charge a flat rate not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for fares between Tampa International Airport and the designated “in-town short ride” zone.
  - f. When a flat fare rate is to be used between the airport and the “in-town short ride zone”, the taxicab meter will not be operated for that trip.
4. Limousines. Minimum rates for limousines will be as follows:
- a. Luxury sedans, luxury SUV’s: Established rates for limousine services are intended to be the minimum rates allowed to be charged. Service providers are at full liberty to charge more than these rates if desired:
    - Hourly - minimum of \$50.00 per hour with a one hour minimum per trip.
    - Daily, weekly, monthly or other contractual chartered arrangements must result in a minimum of \$50.00 per trip.
  - b. Stretch limousines/limousine buses. Established rates for limousine service are intended to be the minimum rates allowed to be charged. Service providers are at full liberty to charge more than these rates if desired:
    - Hourly - minimum of \$60.00 per hour with a one hour minimum per trip.
    - Daily weekly, monthly or other contractual chartered arrangements must result in a minimum of \$60.00 per trip.
  - c. Limousine buses: There are no minimum rates for this subcategory of limousine. Certificate Holders of this type of service must submit a complete schedule of rates for services provided and these rates will remain on file with the PTC as a public record.
5. Handicabs, BLS ambulances:
- a. No rates are established for these types of service at this time.
  - b. Certificate Holders of this type of service must submit a complete schedule of rates for services provided and these rates will remain on file with the PTC as a public record.
6. Vans:
- a. Minimum rates for vans must be as follows: A minimum of Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) for the first passenger in a party and then Five Dollars (\$5.00) for every additional passenger within the same party.

**Appendix 5**  
**Civil Penalties Guidelines**

The following is a list of offenses and monetary civil penalties that will be assessed. The monetary penalty recorded on the initial citation is the amount to be paid if the citation is uncontested. If a citation is contested, the monetary penalty may be more or less than the original amount and will be decided at the administrative hearing. If determined guilty at the hearing, costs of the hearing will be assessed at a rate of \$25.00 per quarter (1/4) hour.

	Section 2 Violations	Penalty
Rule 2.2	Unlawful operation without a certificate	\$500.00
Rule 2.2.7	Failure to notify of ownership/control of a certificate	\$100.00
Rule 2.2.8	Failure to comply with Florida Statutes or Administrative Code	\$50.00
Rule 2.2.2	Operation or causing to operate restricted taxicab outside of Zone	\$200.00
	Section 3 Violations	Penalty
Rule 3.2	Unlawful operation without a vehicle permit	\$100.00
Rule 3.2	Causing or allowing the operation of a vehicle without a permit	\$200.00
Rule 3.2	Operation or causing the operation while vehicle permit is suspended	\$100.00
Rule 3.3	Using a false or altering a temporary permit	\$200.00
Rule 3.4	Unauthorized removal, hiding or altering an "Out of Service" sticker	\$50.00
Rule 3.5	Failure to properly display/affix a permit	\$50.00
Rule 3.6	Unauthorized transfer of a permit	\$100.00
Rule 3.8	Unauthorized modification or altering of a vehicle	\$50.00
Rule 3.13	Failure to remove permit and sticker	\$100.00
	Section 4 Violations	Penalty
Rule 4.1	Failure to maintain required insurance minimums	\$100.00
	Section 5 Violations	Penalty
Rule 5.1	Unlawful vehicle operation without a valid PVDL or a PVDL expired more than 12 months	\$100.00
Rule 5.1	Causing or allowing the operation of a public vehicle by a driver without a valid PVDL or a PVDL expired more than 12 months	\$200.00
Rule 5.1	Unlawful vehicle operation with PVDL expired 12 months or less	\$50.00
	Section 6 Violations	Penalty
Rule 6.1	Failure to comply with Florida Regulatory Traffic Laws	\$50.00
Rule 6.2	Refuse or neglect to transport	\$50.00
Rule 6.3	Failure to properly display a PVDL	\$30.00
Rule 6.3	Operating without possession of a PVDL	\$30.00
Rule 6.4	Operating a vehicle when the permit or certificate is suspended/revoked	\$100.00
Rule 6.5	Operating a taxicab without a properly sealed taximeter	\$50.00
Rule 6.5	Operating a taxicab with passenger without operating the taximeter	\$50.00
Rule 6.7	Failure to maintain appropriate hygiene and appearance	\$30.00
Rule 6.7	Failure to be suitably dressed while on duty	\$30.00
Rule 6.8	Collect fares or compensation other than at the approved rate	\$100.00
Rule 6.9	Operating a vehicle not in good working order	\$50.00
Rule 6.10	Knowingly transporting for the purpose of committing a crime	\$100.00
Rule 6.11	Use of abusive language or discourteous treatment to a customer	\$50.00
Rule 6.12	Using cell phone not in a hands-free mode	\$50.00

Rule 6.13	Failure to maintain clean luggage or passenger compartment	\$40.00
Rule 6.14	Smoking cigarettes or cigars while a passenger is in the vehicle	\$40.00
Rule 6.15	Failure to operate air conditioner at the request of the passenger	\$50.00
Rule 6.16	Failure to remain with vehicle as required	\$30.00
Rule 6.18	Soliciting passengers outside of area authorized to operate	\$30.00
Rule 6.19	Allowing unauthorized driver to operate a permitted vehicle	\$100.00
Rule 6.20	Failure to comply with Florida Statutes and Administrative Code	\$100.00
Rule 6.21	Operating public vehicle while capacity is exceeded	\$50.00
	<b>Section 7 Violations</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Rule 7.1	Failure to maintain records as required	\$100.00
Rule 7.2	Failure to maintain central place of business as required	\$200.00
Rule 7.3	Failure to maintain approved vehicle color scheme	\$40.00
Rule 7.4	Failure to follow approved taxi stand procedures	\$50.00
Rule 7.5	Unauthorized solicitation of customers or non-prearranged services	\$500.00
Rule 7.6	Failure to return personal property left in a vehicle	\$200.00
Rule 7.7	Operating or causing to operate a suspended for-hire vehicle	\$50.00
Rule 7.9	Unauthorized advertising	\$50.00
Rule 7.10	Providing prohibited compensation	\$50.00
	<b>Section 8 Violations</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Rule 8.1	Failure to maintain prescribed vehicle standards	\$100.00
Rule 8.1.20	Operation of a prohibited communication device	\$100.00
Rule 8.2	Failure to maintain prescribed vehicle standards	\$100.00
Rule 8.3	Failure to maintain prescribed vehicle standards	\$100.00
Rule 8.4	Failure to maintain prescribed vehicle standards	\$100.00
Rule 8.5	Failure to maintain prescribed vehicle standards	\$100.00
	<b>Section 9 Violations</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Rule 9.1	Charging and/or collecting more than maximum rates	\$100.00
Rule 9.5	Charging for unauthorized services	\$50.00
Rule 9.6	Failure to file rates as required	\$50.00
Rule 9.7	Accepting prohibited fare subsidy	\$50.00
	<b>Section 10 Violations</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Rule 10.1	Operation of a taxicab without an inspected, sealed taximeter	\$100.00
Rule 10.1	Causing or allowing a violation of Rule 10.1	\$100.00
Rule 10.5	Tampering with a taximeter or seal	\$100.00
Rule 10.6	Operating with an inoperable cruise bight	\$20.00

	Section 11 Violations	Penalty
Rule 11.1	Failure to properly maintain daily manifest	\$50.00
Rule 11.3	Failure to collect and store daily manifests	\$50.00
Rule 11.7	Allowing a driver to operate who did not file manifests	\$50.00
	Section 12 Violations	Penalty
Rule 12.1	Violation of suspension, condition, revocation or probation order	\$100.00
	Section 13 Violations	Penalty
Rule 13.1	Failure to comply with drug-free workplace policy requirements	\$50.00

**Appendix 6**  
**Taxicab Company Classification and Criteria**

The chart below consists of information that PTC hearing officers may use as guidelines to assist in their assessment of taxicab companies as apply for COPCNs to start taxicab services or applications for additional permits. The criteria on the right are not requirements of the companies but, instead, are items that can be used to better describe the quality of the character of the service provided or proposed to be provided.

Small Company	1-9 permits	Service Contract for Maintenance
Medium Company	10-24 permits	Service Contract for Maintenance or Part Time Maintenance Personnel 24 x 7 Operations Schedule Central Dispatching Capability % Accessible Vehicles
Large Company	25-49 permits	Full Time Mechanic Fixed Facility for Company Minimum One Maintenance Bay Non-driver Management Personnel 24 x 7 Operations Meter Inspection Capability % Accessible Vehicles
Extra-Large Company	50 permits and up	Full Time Mechanics Fixed Facility for Company Minimum Three Maintenance Bays Non-driver Management Personnel 24 x 7 Operations Meter Inspection Capability % Accessible Vehicles
All Companies		Operating Voice Communication Capability Vehicle Records Maintenance Driver File Maintenance Driver Training Program
Additional Criteria		Age of Vehicles (5 year rotation policy) Global Positioning System Use Credit Card Scanning! Receipt Equipment Hybrid-fuel consumption vehicles