

DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

The Acting Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles¹ (“Department” or “DFHV”), pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c) (2), (3), (5), (7), (12), (15), and (19), 14, and 20 of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985 (“Establishment Act”), effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code §§ 50-301.07(c)(2) (3), (5), (7), (12), (15), and (19), 50-301.13, and 50-301.19 (2014 Repl. & 2015 Supp.)), and D.C. Official Code § 47-2829 (b), (d), (e), (e-1), and (i) (2014 Repl. & 2015 Supp.), hereby gives notice of the adoption of amendments to Chapter 5 (Taxicab Companies and Associations) and Chapter 99 (Definitions) of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles For Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

This final rulemaking amends Chapter 5 to enhance customer service standards and establish greater parity in operating and licensing rules throughout the taxicab industry by: (1) establishing requirements for independent taxicab owners applying for new and renewed certificates of operating authority; and (2) modifying operating requirements of independent taxicab owners to make more uniform the requirements for independent taxicab owners, taxicab companies, and taxicab associations. In addition, a necessary definition, not included in the proposed rulemaking, has been added to clarify that the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, by statutory authority, is the successor agency to the D. C. Taxicab Commission and the Office of Taxicabs.

Proposed rulemaking was adopted by the D.C. Taxicab Commission on December 9, 2015 and was published in the *D.C. Register* on May 27, 2016 at 63 DCR 007985. The Department received no comments during the comment period expiring June 26, 2016. Any changes made in this final rulemaking from the proposed rulemaking were to correct grammar and typographic errors, clarify the Department’s intent, and lessen the burdens on affected stakeholders. No substantial changes have been made from the proposed rules.

The rules were adopted as final on June 29, 2016, and they will become effective upon publication in the *D.C. Register*.

Chapter 5, TAXICAB COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS, of Title 31 DCMR, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, is amended to read as follows:

The title of Chapter 5 is amended to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 5 TAXICAB COMPANIES, ASSOCIATIONS, FLEETS, AND
INDEPENDENT TAXICABS**

Section 505, INDEPENDENT TAXICABS, is amended to read as follows:

¹ The District of Columbia Taxicab Commission was renamed and re-structured as the Department of For-Hire Vehicles by the Transportation Reorganization Act of 2016 (D.C. Law 21-0124) effective June 22, 2016.

Subsection 505.2 is amended as follows:

Paragraphs (a), (b), (d), (g) and (h) are amended to read as follows:

- (a) The applicant's name, residence and business addresses;
- (b) The applicant's home and mobile telephone numbers, fax number, and email address;
- (d) The make, model, year of manufacture, body type, and vehicle identification number of the applicant's vehicle;
- (g) Whether the applicant's vehicle is wheelchair accessible or other specially equipped;
- (h) The type of fuel used by the applicant's vehicle;

New Paragraphs (i) through (n) are added to read as follows:

- (i) Certification of tax compliance from the Internal Revenue Service for the prior tax year;
- (j) A copy of Certificate of Occupancy for the applicant's administrative office, if applicable;
- (k) A statement by the applicant that the applicant will not discriminate against customers and will provide service throughout the District of Columbia;
- (l) Clean Hands certification that the applicant has complied with the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue registration and filing requirements, including but not limited to filing the FR-500 Combined Business Tax Registration Application Form and the FR-500T, Taxicab and Limousine Supplemental Information Form;
- (m) Verification that the applicant has applied for and is pre-approved for insurance that complies with District of Columbia insurance requirements and the requirements of Chapter 9 of this title; and
- (n) The trade name and any design, insignia, logo, term, symbol, lettering, or other exterior object, pursuant to § 503 of this chapter.

New Subsections 505.11 through 505.13 are added to read as follows:

- 505.11 Each independent taxicab owner shall maintain a computerized data system capable of electronically submitting to the Office all information required by this Title and other applicable law.
- 505.12 Each independent taxicab owner shall provide one or more safety devices for all its owned and associated vehicles which conforms to the equipment standards of § 603.8(n)(3), as specified in an administrative issuance, including a device which also provides for driver's safety.
- 505.13 Each independent taxicab owner shall maintain a website containing only current and accurate information about the company or association.

Chapter 99, DEFINITIONS, is amended as follows:

Section 9901, DEFINITIONS, is amended as follows:

Subsection 9901.1 is amended to add the following definition:

“Department of For-Hire Vehicles”, “Department” or “DFHV” - the Department established under § 5 of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code § 50-301.04 (2014 Repl. & 2015 Supp.)) and which replaced the D.C. Taxicab Commission and the Office of Taxicabs with the enactment of the Transportation Reorganization Amendment Act of 2016, effective June 22, 2016 (D.C. Law 21-0124).