



ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE

Title: Extended Vehicles

Series/Number: AI-2016-004

Replaces: AI-2015-004

Approved: June 10, 2016

Effective: June 11, 2016

I. BACKGROUND

The D.C. Taxicab Commission (“Commission”) has a statutory obligation to establish requirements for vehicles-for-hire, including requirements to ensure the safety of operators and the public, to support research and compliance, and for other purposes within its jurisdiction. The taxicab vehicle retirement rules in 31 DCMR 609 reflect the Commission’s policy priorities for improving the fleet, including allow a taxicab owner to apply under § 609.7 for a one-time extension of the date by which the owner’s vehicle must otherwise be retired. Under that subsection, the owner must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Office of Taxicabs (“Office”) that the vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition. The subsection is narrowly construed as it is inconsistent with § 609, raises ongoing safety concerns by the continued presence of old vehicle on the road. To date, these concerns have been addressed by requiring regular updates about the mechanical condition and mileage of extended vehicles.

Through vehicle history reports, however, the Office has learned that many vehicles entering service have potential odometer rollbacks, are declared total losses, have salvaged titles, or are otherwise noncompliant with vehicle condition requirements. Given the substantial safety concerns associated with extended vehicles compared to vehicles entering service, a vehicle history report from Autocheck.com or Carfax.com shall be required with each application for a vehicle extension to ensure that these vehicles are not among those which the Office has found to be noncompliant.

II. PURPOSE

This administrative issuance provides guidance and outlines procedures for owners seeking vehicle extensions under § 609.7, and continues the Office’s policy of limiting vehicle extensions under § 609.7 to a maximum of one (1) year. Each owner shall provide the Office with regular updates about the mechanical condition and mileage of extended vehicles, by either: filing an electronic vehicle condition report (“EVCR”) every thirty (30) days, or having a vehicle condition monitoring device (“VCMD”) installed on the vehicle by an accredited VCMD business. Extended vehicles shall be maintained in excellent condition throughout the period of their extensions. In addition, each applicant seeking a vehicle extension shall submit a vehicle history report with the application.

III. POLICY

The Office shall not approve a vehicle extension in excess of one (1) year.

Each extended vehicle shall be maintained in excellent condition throughout its extension. Failure to maintain the vehicle in excellent condition shall result in its removal from service.

Each owner of an extended vehicle shall either file an EVCR every thirty (30) days at dctc.reports@dc.gov, or have a VCMD installed on the vehicle by an accredited VCMD business, in the manner and at the time(s) directed by the Office following the owner's indication of the owner's choice of EVCRs or a VCMD.

Each owner seeking a vehicle extension shall submit a vehicle history report from Autocheck.com or Carfax.com conducted on the vehicle within the preceding thirty (30) days. The submission of a fraudulent vehicle history report shall result in the denial of the vehicle extension application, in addition to other civil penalties as provided in Title 31.

VCRs and VCMDs shall report to the Office such mechanical information about the vehicle as the Office may determine, as well as the vehicle's mileage. Information reported shall not include location or personal information.

If an owner chooses to have a VCMD installed, the owner shall have it installed only by an accredited VCMD business, which may charge a reasonable fee to the owner for the installation. The Office may require an owner to agree to terms and conditions for a VCMD, including its return when the vehicle is retired.

The Office may issue a compliance order to the owner of an extended vehicle where the vehicle is no longer in excellent condition or where its mileage exceeds the limits of the extension, including an order to: repair the vehicle, remove the vehicle from service permanently (based on mileage) or pending repair, or submit the vehicle for inspection.

If a VCMD is tampered with, altered, or disabled, the Office may require the VCMD to be removed from the vehicle and thereafter may require the owner to file an EVCR in lieu of the VCMD, and may take enforcement action under Chapter 7. If an owner files an EVCR containing false information, the Office may take enforcement action under Chapter 7. If an owner files a late EVCR, the Office may issue a compliance order.

IV. DEFINITIONS

“Accredited VCMD business” – a business accredited by the Office to install VCMDs, as defined herein.

“Electronic vehicle condition report” or “EVCR” – an electronic report containing information about a vehicle's mechanical condition and mileage.

“Extended vehicle” – a vehicle which is the subject of an extension under § 609.7.

“Vehicle condition monitoring device” or “VCMD” – a device installed on a vehicle which transmits to the Office the mechanical information required for an EVCR.

“Vehicle history report” – a vehicle history report from Autocheck.com or Carfax.com that reports, at a minimum, the following information associated with a vehicle’s VIN: major accidents; actual or potential mileage rollbacks; structural damage; lease, personal, taxi or police use; whether the vehicle was declared a total loss by the insurance company; whether a vehicle was rebuilt; flood damage; airbag deployment; whether the title has been declared “salvaged”; the last reported mileage; estimated mileage driven per year; and service, inspection, and registration history.

V. AUTHORITY

D.C. Official Code §§ 50-307 (c) (2) - (3), 50-329 (a); 31 DCMR §§ 601.2, 608.1, 608.2, 608.4, 609.7, 701.1, 702.1, 800.4, and 822.10.

VI. PROCEDURES

The Office shall accredit at least two (2) businesses to install VCMDs. The Office shall maintain a list of accredited VCMD businesses on the Commission’s website.

Beginning on the effective date of this administrative issuance:

- (a) Each taxicab owner who applies for a new extension under § 609.7, shall agree in writing to maintain the vehicle in excellent mechanical condition throughout the period of any extension, and shall state whether, if the extension is granted, the owner wishes to either (a) file an EVCR every thirty (30) days at detc.reports@dc.gov or (b) have a VCMD installed on the vehicle by an accredited VCMD business;
- (b) Each taxicab owner that applies for a new extension under § 609.7, shall provide a vehicle history report completed on the vehicle within the preceding 30 days.
- (c) Each taxicab owner previously granted an extension under § 609.7, where the vehicle is scheduled to remain in service for at least ninety (90) days from the effective date of this administrative issuance, shall inform the Office of whether the owner chooses to either (a) file an EVCR every thirty (30) days at detc.reports@dc.gov or (b) have a VCMD installed on the vehicle by accredited VCMD business; and
- (d) Each taxicab owner served with a compliance order relating to an extended vehicle shall timely and completely comply with such order, subject to the civil fines and other penalties in Chapter 7.