



ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE

Title: H-tag Pilot Program

Series/Number: AI-2018-02

Approved: March 16, 2018

Replaces: N/A

Effective: March 17, 2018

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In 2015, the Department of For-Hire Vehicles (“DFHV” or “Department”) ended its moratorium on issuing new vehicle licenses. Through various Department regulations, vehicle licenses (and corresponding DMV-issued H-tags) have been made available to certain taxicab owners who had previously surrendered their H-tags; placed fuel-efficient vehicles on the road; joined the Neighborhood Ride Service program; or purchased wheelchair accessible vehicles and joined Transport DC. *See* 31 DCMR § 1010. Through this administrative issuance, an additional pathway to receiving H-tags is being made available to taxicab companies and DFHV-licensed (Face card-holding) operators who agree to participate in the H-tag Pilot Program as defined below.

II. DEFINITIONS

“H-tag Pilot Program” or “Program” – A DFHV program in which a licensed taxicab company or a licensed Face card holder may receive a vehicle license from DFHV and corresponding DMV-issued H-tags, conditioned on the applicant participating in programs to improve and expand micro-transit opportunities, expand access to for-hire transportation to disadvantaged or under-served populations, and in other initiatives as may be determined by the Department.

“Program Agreement” – An agreement between DFHV and applicants selected to participate in the H-tag Pilot Program that sets forth the conditions for receiving a new DFHV vehicle license. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, agreeing to provide service in under-served areas of the District at specific hours; participating in other DFHV pilot programs (such as Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, Veterans Transportation, Vehicle-on-Demand), or other conditions or initiatives as communicated by DFHV.

III. AUTHORITY

District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986, D.C. OFFICIAL CODE §§ 50-301.07, 50-301.13 and 50-301.19; 31 DCMR § 1010.21(d) (“The [Department] may issue a new [DFHV] vehicle license to each applicant that meets the applicable requirements of this title and other applicable laws. In addition, each applicant may be required...to: [m]eet other requirements to enhance safety and consumer protection, to improve customer service, or to achieve other lawful purposes within the jurisdiction of [DFHV], as determined by [DFHV] in an administrative issuance.”)

IV. PROCEDURES

- (1) Applicants interested in participating in the H-tag Pilot Program shall complete an application to receive a new DFHV vehicle license. In order to be eligible to apply, applicants must have current, valid DFHV taxicab company operating authority, or a current and valid Face ID and must be in good standing with the DFHV. Operators with two or more substantiated public complaints within the previous year, or a company with two or more regulatory violations, compliance orders issued, or enforcement actions taken against it within the previous year of the date of application shall be ineligible for the Program.
- (2) DFHV shall review and process all applications within 10 (ten) business days.
- (3) Applicants will be required to sign a Program Agreement.
- (4) Applicants who are approved may submit a completed One Stop Form, with all appropriate fees to place into active taxicab service any vehicle that is compliant with Title 31 of the DCMR with respect to age, mileage, and condition. Applicants whose application for a new vehicle license is denied may appeal the DFHV's decision to the Office of Hearing Examiners within 30 calendar days of the date of the denial.
- (5) Program participants shall be assigned an H-tag Pilot Program account manager who will monitor compliance with the Program Agreement.
- (6) DFHV reserves the right to communicate additional program requirements, in writing, to program participants, which must be accepted and implemented within a specified timeframe in order for the participant to remain in the Program.
- (7) Program participants must remain in the Program for a minimum of two (2) years from the date that the Program Agreement is executed.
- (8) Failure to comply with the Program Agreement and/or the reasonable instructions communicated by DFHV is grounds for immediate expulsion from the Program and revocation of DFHV vehicle license and accompanying H-tag.
- (9) Compliance with Program requirements is at the sole determination of DFHV.

SO ORDERED:

DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

By: _____

Ernest Chrappah
ERNEST CHRAPPAH

Director