

**INDEPENDENT VEHICLE BUSINESS (IVB)  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**1. What is an Independent Taxicab (or Luxury) Vehicle Business (“ITVB” or “ILVB”)?**

ITVBs and ILVBs – together, called “IVBs” – are District of Columbia-based businesses formed by Maryland and Virginia residents for the purpose of allowing them to register public vehicles-for-hire (taxicabs, limousines, and black cars) in the District as independent owner-operators. An IVB can be any type of District-based business (a corporation, an LLC, an LLP, or a sole proprietorship).

**2. Is my IVB license transferrable?**

No. *An IVB license is not a medallion and may not be transferred.* You may not sell, devise, bequeath, lend, license, or in any other way transfer your IVB to another individual or business. In order to receive an IVB license, you are required to agree in writing that if you attempt to transfer the IVB license, the license will be rendered null and void. Any transfer will not be recognized by DFHV.

**3. Is an IVB a separate for-hire business, like a taxicab company?**

No. DFHV created IVBs to enable out-of-state residents to meet the legal requirements to register for-hire vehicles in the District, not to create a new type of for-hire business, like a taxicab company. Therefore, the agency generally does not recognize the IVB as a separate entity from you, the IVB owner (this is not true for DCRA and other agencies, and for tax purposes – they do consider you and the IVB to be separate entities). Instead, DFHV considers the IVB to be your *alter ego*, meaning, among other things, that enforcement actions against the IVB are considered to be against you as the IVB owner, and vice-versa.

**4. Who is eligible to form an IVB?**

Any DFHV-licensed operator who lives in Maryland or Virginia may apply for an IVB license.

**5. I am a District resident. Am I eligible to form an IVB?**

No. D.C. residents are not eligible for IVB licenses because they do not need IVBs to title and register vehicles in the District.

**6. How do I apply for an IVB license?**

Getting an IVB license is easy. You may apply at the same time you seek to register a new taxicab or luxury vehicle (limousine or black car). Read the instructions and fill out the Application for Independent Owner-Operator Authority and Independent Vehicle Business License, and the IVB Addendum, available [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Department by clicking [here](#).

**7. Where do I go first?**

To get your initial IVB license, go to DCRA, which is located at 1101-4th Street, S.W., or visit DCRA online [here](#). At DCRA, you will need to obtain: (1) a certificate of a District-based

business; (2) a certificate of occupancy for your place of business in D.C.; and (3) a clean hands certificate. If you want your IVB to transact business under a trade name, you must also obtain a certificate of registration of a trade name from DCRA.

Effective March 21, 2017, it is no longer necessary for you to obtain a basic business license (BBL) from DCRA. The IVB license from DFHV now functions as a BBL, eliminating the time and further expense of obtaining a BBL.

#### **8. Where do I go next?**

After you go to DCRA or visit it online, please go to DFHV at 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Client Service, Second Floor with your Application, IVB Addendum, required documents listed in the Application, and a payment of \$150.

#### **9. Do IVBs change the rules for which vehicles may be placed into service?**

No. The Department's policies for new DFHV taxicab vehicle licenses and DMV H tags are the same for both Maryland and Virginia residents who form IVBs and for D.C. residents who do not. New DFHV taxicab vehicle licenses and new H tags will be issued only to applicants who purchase and place into active service one of the following: (1) a new 100% electric vehicle; (2) a WAV two years old or less to be used in Transport DC for at least three years; or (3) for approved H tag "surrenderers" only (see the administrative issuance on H tag surrender, available [here](#)): (a) a new 100% electric vehicle, (b) a WAV two years old or less to be used in Transport DC for at least three years, or any vehicle that complies with § 609.7 to be used in Transport DC for at least three years and is replaced with a new WAV at 3,000 Transport DC trips.

#### **10. How much does it cost to apply for an IVB license?**

The application fee for a new IVB is \$150. You may pay by check, money order, MasterCard or Visa. DFHV does not accept American Express or Discover. There is no charge to renew an existing IVB.

#### **11. When can I apply for an IVB license?**

You may apply for a new IVB license at any time. A renewal application is due not later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of every year, *but an initial IVB license is not required to be renewed until December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year after it is issued.*

#### **12. What regulations govern IVBs?**

The IVB regulations appear in sections 504 and 1221 of Title 31 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations, available [here](#).

#### **13. How do I get answers to my questions and more information about IVBs?**

Please contact DFHV by clicking [here](#).