

# City Of Cincinnati Public Vehicle Squad Rules & Regulations For Taxicab Drivers

The following rules and regulations are in accordance with Cincinnati Municipal Code (CMC) §407-125 and §408-45.

Unless stated otherwise, a violation of any rule or regulation will result in one (1) violation mark against a driver's record. Other violation marks may be accumulated for traffic violations as noted in CMC Section 408-37 (Violation Marks).

Subsequent violations of any rule or regulation or Section 408-37 within a 12 month period may result in a thirty (30) day suspension or a revocation.

## Code For Taxicab Drivers

### 1. Driver Appearance

- A. Drivers shall be well-groomed and maintain good hygiene.
- B. Clothes must be clean & neat & free from fraying, tears and stains.
- C. Drivers must wear full-length trousers (slacks or jeans of neutral color with no designs).
  - i. A female driver may wear a skirt.
- D. Shorts may be worn from May 16<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day.
  - i. Shorts must be solid in color.
  - ii. Cutoffs or frayed shorts are not permitted.
  - iii. Shorts may be no more than three (3) inches above the knee and must not go below the knee.
- E. All trousers or shorts must be secured at the waist, above the hips, with either a belt or suspenders of neutral color with no design on same.
- F. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves and remain buttoned from top to bottom and must remain tucked into waist band at all times.
- G. T-shirts, tank tops and sweat outfits are prohibited as outer garments at all times.
- H. Drivers must also wear socks and shoes.
  - i. Shoes must be of full dimension to cover the front, rear and both sides of the foot.
  - ii. Socks must be worn at all times.
  - iii. No sandals or "flip-flops" are permitted.

- I. Driver ID must be displayed conspicuously within the vehicle and be easily visible to passengers. Driver must show ID badge to any police officer, public vehicle employee or citizen upon request (CMC §408-13) (4 violation marks).

## 2. Driver Conduct

- A. Drivers must establish an account with City Income Tax (805 Central Avenue, Suite 600, 513-352-3838).
  - i. A driver must comply with the provisions of the City Income Tax Ordinance.
  - ii. Drivers must be in good standing on any court-ordered child support obligations. Failure to comply with either City Income Tax or court-ordered child support will be cause for revocation of license. (CMC § 801-25)
- B. Drivers must report all accidents involving a taxicab to the police and the Public Vehicle Squad (CMC §511-10, §408-37) (4 violation marks).
- C. A public vehicle driver's license shall be revoked for:
  - i. allowing a taxicab to be used for an unlawful or immoral purpose;
  - ii. a conviction of OVI;
  - iii. felony conviction;
  - iv. misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude;
  - v. making false statements on application;
  - vi. charging a rate not on file with Public Vehicle office; or,
  - vii. becoming mentally and/or physically incapable of operating a public vehicle (CMC §407-3, §407-109, §407-127, §408-35, §408-43).
- D. Drivers may not carry a concealed weapon unless authorized by law to do so in accordance with all applicable state laws (ORC 2923.12 and CMC §408-45).
- E. Drivers may not solicit passengers by hand or word of mouth (CMC §408-23 (4 violation marks)).
- F. Every driver of a taxicab available for hire shall transport any orderly person between two points within the city.
  - i. A passenger has the right to approach or to hail and receive service from any public vehicle they choose.
  - ii. Every driver of a taxicab must use a light located on the top of the vehicle to indicate when the taxi is available for hire.
  - iii. Driver must provided service to any customer.
  - iv. **Failure to provide service is cause for suspension.** The director shall suspend the license of such driver for a period of 5 to 15 days on the first violation and 15 to 30 days on a second violation within any three year period. In case of a violation after two suspensions, within any five-year period, the driver's license shall be revoked. (CMC §407-39)
- G. Taxicabs shall be permitted to cruise to pick up passengers.
  - i. Drivers must pull safely to the curb so as to not impede the flow of traffic (CMC §407-112).
- H. Drivers are not permitted to operate over a fixed route (CMC §407-37(a)) (4 violation marks).

- I. When on a taxi stand at or near a hotel, only the first taxicab may respond to the doorman unless the customer requests another taxicab.
  - i. Drivers may not tip the doorman in order to induce him to direct passengers to their taxicab (CMC §407-117 and §408-23) (4 violation marks).
- J. Drivers shall carry enough money, suitably denominated, to make change for \$20.
- K. Taxicab drivers are required to be courteous to the public at all times.
- L. Whenever a taxicab is unoccupied or not completely occupied, but is available for business, the driver shall not permit anyone who is not intending to pay a fare to occupy or ride in the taxicab.
  - i. Whenever a customer occupies a taxicab, no person(s) other than the fare-paying customer(s) are allowed in the taxicab with the driver (CMC §408-27).
- M. The taxicab meter must be used on all trips.
  - i. The customer is only required to pay the amount on the taximeter, plus state sales tax.
  - ii. Surcharges may be added only if the taxicab company has filed rates with Public Vehicles and the driver informs the customer of such surcharge before the trip begins.
  - iii. Any charge made that is not in accordance with this rate schedule, shall be considered cause for revocation of the license (CMC §407-51, §407-65, §407-67) (4 violation marks).
- N. Drivers must provide a receipt when requested.
  - i. The receipt must include: company name, taxicab number, name or PV badge number of driver, all charges made and date of payment (CMC §408-73) (4 violation marks).
- O. Drivers must keep a record, "trip sheet," of each trip.
  - i. Each trip sheet should note the driver's name, the name and number of the taxicab and the date.
  - ii. Each trip must show the beginning and ending time of each trip, the pick-up and drop-off locations and the amount of fare collected.
  - iii. Trip sheets must be kept for at least six (6) months and may be inspected by the Police Department or the director upon request (CMC §407-85).
- P. Drivers are prohibited from smoking in the taxicab when occupied by a passenger.
  - i. The passenger cannot give the driver permission to smoke (CMC §408-25).
- Q. A minimum fare may be charged only when the "minimum fare" notice is posted on the rear doors of the taxicab, the owner has filed a minimum trip rate, and the rate shall not exceed \$3 per trip (CMC §407-54).
- R. Each driver must keep the public vehicle office advised of his/her current address of residence (CMC §408-31).
- S. Taxicab drivers must remain in or beside their vehicle when parked at a taxi stand.
  - i. Certain taxicab stands are "restricted stands" and require the drivers to remain in their cab at all times.
  - ii. Other stands are designated "layover stands" and allow the taxicab to be left unattended for up to one (1) hour (CMC §408-29, §407-111).

- T. A taxicab on a taxi stand shall be presumed to be unengaged, unless standing at the direction of a customer.
  - i. If a taxicab is standing at the direction of a customer, the meter must be on (CMC §407-39, CMC §407-107(c)).
- U. When in the downtown business district, a taxicab driver shall be permitted to park at a parking meter for personal and professional purposes only and provided that the taxicab driver pays the fee associated with the parking meter, the taxicab is left unattended at the meter, and the period of parking at the meter does not exceed a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes (CMC §508-22).
- V. Taxicabs must have usable seat belts and may carry only as many passengers as listed on the Rate Card and as there are seat belts (ORC 4513.263 and CMC §407-123).
- W. The driver must make sure that the taxicab meter, of any taxicab he/she operates, has been tested and sealed by the Public Vehicles Squad.
  - i. Taxicab meters must be operational, tested and sealed at all times (CMC §407-77) (4 violation marks).
  - ii. Each taxicab must carry, at all times, a Rate Card showing the rates of fare to be charged on the meter, the number of passengers the taxicab may carry and number of the taxicab.
  - iii. The Rate Card shall not be altered or damaged and shall be in a position to be easily read by the passengers (CMC §407-71) (4 violation marks).
- X. Four (4) violation marks shall be entered against the driver's public vehicle license for:
  - i. not having a rate card displayed in the taxicab;
  - ii. defacing any license;
  - iii. not giving a receipt upon request;
  - iv. any unlawful or immoral use of a taxicab; and,
  - v. certain moving violations (CMC §408-37).
- Y. No person, owner, agent, employee or driver of a public vehicle, except animal-drawn carriages and pedicabs, unless approved by the director, shall make up parties on the public streets or public places or solicit patronage for a vehicle already hired (CMC §407-37) .
- Z. Whenever a driver receives twelve (12) violation mark(s) in any twelve (12) month period, said driver's public vehicle driver's license shall be suspended for thirty (30) days.
  - i. Whenever a driver receives thirty (30) violation mark(s) within any twelve (12) month period, the city treasurer shall revoke said license for one (1) year (CMC §407-37).

### **3. Vehicle Condition**

- A. The interior and exterior of public vehicles must be kept clean and free of any visible or mechanical defect at all times.
  - i. All public vehicles shall be free of body damage, mechanical defects, cracked windows and broken lamps.
- B. The trunk shall be kept clean and free of leaks.

- C. Spare tire and tools shall be secured and covered with a mat or carpet.
- D. The interior of taxicabs shall be free of all personal items, including, but not limited to: TV's, clothes, blankets, trash.
- E. Any driver found to be operating or in charge of a vehicle with any defect will be assessed one (1) violation mark against their public vehicle driver's license (CMC 408-37) or as noted below:
  - i. No body damage on vehicle permitted.
  - ii. Be equipped with four (4) matching hubcaps
  - iii. Vehicle must be clean and free of all personal items
  - iv. No cracked windows or lenses for lights
  - v. Trunk shall be clean and free of leaks
  - vi. Spare tire and tools shall be secured and covered with a mat or carpet.
  - vii. Meter must be operational, tested and sealed at all times (CMC 407-77) (4 violation marks).
  - viii. Rate Card must be carried at all times in a position to be easily read by passengers and be free of any alteration or damage (CMC 407-71) (4 violation marks).
- F. Whenever a public vehicle is found not to be in a safe and sanitary operating condition or not to comply fully with all the requirements specified herein, the city treasurer, upon the recommendation of the director, shall suspend or revoke the license of the public vehicle, until the provisions herein are complied with (CMC §407-107(e)).