



NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Emergency Industry Notice #10
 Tuesday, October 24, 2001

TLC ANNOUNCES EXPEDITED LICENSING POLICIES TO ASSIST ITS REGULATED INDUSTRIES

The TLC Commissioner/Chair announces the adoption of the following temporary changes in licensing policies and procedures applicable to the industries regulated by the TLC, effective immediately. These changes are intended to assist all TLC-regulated industries following the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the resulting decline in business, and are implemented as a pilot program which may be amended or terminated by the TLC at any time. All other policies applicable to the renewal of TLC operators' licenses, or to obtaining a new TLC license, remain unchanged.

I. New Taxicab Driver Applicants

Until further notice, the TLC has adopted new procedures for the expeditious processing of new taxicab driver license applications. Individuals who have been identified by any taxicab owner may qualify for expedited processing of their licenses. License applicants utilizing this expedited process will be able to receive their licenses immediately after completing the 80-hour course, and passing the final examination, if all other conditions of licensure are met. In order to be processed through this expedited procedure, licensees must present the following:

- A completed new license application;
- A letter requesting expedited processing signed by a taxicab owner who represents to the TLC that the applicant will operate the owner's taxicab;
- A money order, in the amount of \$120, made payable to the TLC;
- A money order, in the amount of \$50, made payable to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services ("DCJS");
- Proof of citizenship and/or work authorization (passport, birth certificate or green card);
- An original social security card;
- A completed child support affidavit (available at the TLC);
- A driver's license; and
- Photo identification with four passport-size photos (these may be taken at the TLC).

Applicants presenting the preceding documentation will be eligible to begin the required 80-hour training course on the Monday following the submission of the application. While attending the course, these applicants must complete mandatory drug testing, the required defensive driving course, and the physical examination. If the 80-hour course is attended full-time, the final examination will be administered the second Friday following the commencement of the class. The examination will be graded on the following business day. Applicants who have passed the examination and have met all licensing requirements will be notified by telephone to appear at the TLC's Long Island City licensing facility to retrieve their licenses.

II. Simplified Re-Application Procedures for Experienced Former Taxicab Drivers

Until further notice, the TLC will waive the 80-hour course requirement for certain individuals who previously held hack licenses, but allowed their licenses to expire for more than six months. These procedures do not apply to former licensees whose licenses were revoked or which expired while revocation procedures were pending.

- Individuals who completed a TLC certified training course after January 4, 1999 and passed the examination are not required to take any additional course;
- Any other individual who held a hack license for at least a three (3) year period, and whose license expired after January 1, 1989, shall be permitted to attend a three-day (24 hour) refresher course in lieu of the 80-hour course. The fee for this course will be \$125, rather than the \$325 charged for the 80-hour course. These individuals must meet all other licensing requirements and must pass the same competency examination issued to other applicants.

Individuals who re-apply under these procedures may also be eligible for expedited processing, using the procedures set forth in Part I of this Industry Notice.

III. 6 Month Renewal Policy for All TLC Drivers

Until further notice, completed taxicab, for-hire vehicle (FHV), paratransit and commuter van drivers' license renewal applications will now be accepted for up to six (6) months following the expiration of the license. Previously, any renewal application received by the Commission, or postmarked later than thirty (30) days beyond the expiration date of the current license was deemed void, and the individual was required to re-apply as a new applicant. Such renewal applicants must pay the required \$25 late fee.

IV. New FHV, Paratransit and Commuter Van Driver Applicants

The TLC has reached a temporary arrangement with DCJS to expedite fingerprint processing and background investigations, thereby reducing the time that would be required for the TLC to issue a new FHV, paratransit or commuter van operator's license. New applicants may present a letter from a licensed base requesting expedited processing of their application upon filing. It is expected that this expedited service will enable the TLC to significantly reduce the time that is ordinarily required to issue a new FHV operator's license. Additionally, the TLC will contact applicants by telephone when their licenses have been approved. Such applicants will have the option of picking up their licenses in person at the Licensing Division (with proper identification), or have their licenses sent to them through the mail.

V. Payment of Licensing Fees

Applicants who have experienced a personal hardship as a result of the September 11th tragedy may be eligible to receive assistance in the payment of required licensing fees. Information may be obtained by calling the Red Cross helpline at (212) 219-6200 or 1-877-746-4987. A licensee may also contract with an industry organization or licensed vehicle medallion owner who may pre-pay all or part of the applicant's licensing and continuing education fees on the applicant's behalf.

VI. TLC Assistance in Processing Applications

The TLC announces the following new services available to license applicants:

- A dedicated window has been established at the Licensing Division, located at 32-02 Queens Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Long Island City, NY 11101. This window will receive and process expedited license requests. Experienced and trained licensing staff will be available to assist applicants and answer questions. Waiting time will be significantly reduced.
- Information concerning the expedited licensing procedure may be obtained by calling the TLC hotline **(212) NYC-TAXI**. Operators fluent in both English and Spanish are available to answer questions and provide additional information.
- Additional information and other industry notices may be viewed at the TLC website (<http://www.nyc.gov/taxi>).