

# Interim Vehicle Specifications for Medallion Taxicab Service

April 21, 2011

# Vehicles Approved For Taxi Service: The Ford Crown Victoria

2

- ❑ For many years the only non-hybrid vehicle that meets TLC specifications for use as a taxicab has been the Ford Crown Victoria.
- ❑ Ford Motor Company has announced discontinuation of the Crown Victoria after the 2011 model year.
  - ❑ After that, no commercially available vehicle model will comply with the TLC vehicle specifications
- ❑ Under recent court rulings, the TLC specifications may be legally vulnerable if they permit only alternative fuel vehicles and accessible vehicles to meet the needs of owners of unrestricted medallions.
- ❑ With the Taxi of Tomorrow vehicle about two years from implementation, interim revisions to the standard taxicab vehicle specifications are necessary.

# Vehicles Approved For Taxicab Service: Alternative Vehicles

- ❑ Hybrid vehicles were approved for taxicab use pursuant to section 67-05.1 of the TLC rules.
- ❑ After the Crown Victoria, the most-used models are hybrid vehicles.
- ❑ The first of these taxicabs came into service in 2005; today there are 4,600 hybrid vehicle taxicabs in service.
- ❑ These vehicles have travelled about 400,000,000 miles and carried about 100,000,000 passengers.
- ❑ These vehicles have proved to be safe, reliable, and comfortable taxicabs, equal to the rigors of New York City taxicab service.

# Vehicles Approved For Taxicab Service: Vehicles Out of Compliance

4

It has come to the TLC's attention that six of the vehicle models that are listed on the TLC's web site as approved taxicab vehicles do not comply with the vehicle specifications:

- Honda Civic
  - Interior Volume
- Lexus RX450H
  - Horsepower
- Lexus HS250H
  - Rear-compartment headroom and legroom
- Nissan Altima
  - Rear-compartment headroom
- Toyota Highlander
  - Horsepower (met specifications until 2006 until model changed)
- Volkswagen Jetta
  - Front-compartment headroom and legroom; rear-compartment headroom (met specifications until 2010 model changed)
- Ford Crown Victoria
  - Horsepower (met specifications until model changed)

# Vehicles Approved For Taxicab Service: Going Forward

5

The TLC will be changing specifications to bring half of these vehicles into compliance with TLC regulations, and half will be discontinued and no longer allowed to provide taxicab vehicle service.

## Vehicles to be approved:

- Nissan Altima
- Toyota Highlander
- Volkswagen Jetta
- Ford Crown Victoria

## Vehicles to be discontinued:

- Lexus RX450H
- Lexus HS250H
- Honda Civic

# Vehicles Approved For Taxicab Service: New Vehicles to be Approved

6

Four recently introduced vehicle models comply with the proposed vehicle specifications:

- Ford Fusion
- Hyundai Sonata
- Lincoln MKZ
- Volkswagen Golf 2.5L TDI four-door

In addition, four “premium” gasoline-powered equivalents of clean diesel vehicles comply with the new TLC specifications:

- Audi Q7 3.01 T
- Volkswagen Toareg 3.0L FSI
- Mercedes Benz E350
- Mercedes Benz ML350

Although these models have not yet seen New York City taxicab service, they comply with the vehicle specifications and therefore are permitted as-of-right to be used as taxicabs.

# Vehicles Approved For Taxicab Service: Vehicles Approved for 2011

7

2011\* Model Year vehicles that comply with TLC rules:

Ford Escape

Ford Fusion

Hyundai Sonata

Lincoln MKZ

Nissan Altima

Toyota Camry

Toyota Highlander

Toyota Prius

Volkswagen Golf

Volkswagen Jetta

Audi Q7 3.01 T

Volkswagen Touareg 3.0L FSI

Mercedes Benz E350

Mercedes Benz ML350

\*Non-hybrid versions of all approved hybrid vehicles will also be available for use as taxicabs.