

## Longer Life & Reduced Inspections for Chicago Taxicab Vehicles!

On May 28, 2014, the City Council of Chicago approved Mayor Emanuel's proposed amendments to Chapter 9-112 Taxicabs of the Municipal Code of Chicago. The changes will allow 80 percent of taxicab vehicles to have longer life as Chicago licensed taxicabs, and newer taxicab vehicles will only have one scheduled annual inspection instead of two scheduled semi-annual inspections.

## **NEW 9-112-070 SPECIFICATIONS FOR TAXICAB VEHICLES**

The commissioner may issue licenses for motor vehicles to operate as taxicabs according to the following:
(c) Age of vehicle. A licensee cannot operate a vehicle as a licensed taxicab beyond the following vehicle age:

- (1) Four years for vehicles that are not designated pursuant to the department's list of authorized vehicles as wheelchair accessible or fuel efficient.
- (2) <u>Six</u> years for vehicles that are designated pursuant to the department's list of authorized vehicles as fuel efficient.
- (3) <u>Seven</u> years for vehicles that are designated pursuant to the department's list of authorized vehicles as both wheelchair accessible.

## **NEW 9-112-050 VEHICLE INSPECTIONS**

No person shall place a vehicle into service as a taxicab until the vehicle has been inspected under the direction of the commissioner and found to be in safe operating condition. A taxicab vehicle inspection includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that all required equipment is installed and operating as intended, and that the interior and exterior of the vehicle are clean and in good condition for the safety of the vehicle drivers and passengers. Licensees must submit all their taxicab vehicles for inspection as scheduled by the department. Taxicab vehicles with a vehicle age of 2 years or newer must be inspected at least annually, and all older taxicab vehicles must be inspected at least semiannually.

## **EFFECT OF NEW LAWS FOR TAXICAB VEHICLES**

 All fuel efficient taxicab vehicles have an automatic extra year of life. Fuel efficient taxicab vehicles will

- not be scheduled for replacement (change of equipment) until they reach vehicle age\* of six years.
- All wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) taxicab vehicles have an automatic extra year of life. WAV taxicabs will not be scheduled for replacement (change of equipment) until they reach vehicle age\* of seven years.
- Please note that WAV taxicabs retain potential for even longer life if they continue to pass annual scheduled vehicle inspections.
- This year, 2014, taxicab vehicles with 2013 and 2014 model year vehicles will only be scheduled for one annual inspection.
- Newer vehicles will no longer be scheduled for two inspections annually
- \* "Vehicle Age" means the age of a vehicle computed by totaling the number of the years in between and including both the calendar year and the model year.

The above laws do not technically go into effect until August 26, 2014 – 90 days after passage and approval. BACP Public Vehicle operations will work with taxicab medallion license holder and license managers to start implementing the new laws NOW.

Send an e-mail to <u>BACPPV@cityofchicago.org</u> if your taxicab vehicle is scheduled for a change of equipment (COE) inspection or a second scheduled inspection this year and the vehicle qualifies for an extra year of life or a waiver of the second scheduled inspection. Taxicab medallion license managers may schedule an appointment by sending a request to <u>BACPPV@cityofchicago.org</u> to consolidate requests for multiple taxicab medallions.





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