



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Permitting Non-conforming Replacement Taxicabs

Date:	April 7, 2015
To:	Licensing and Standards Committee
From:	Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster B\MLS\LS15008

SUMMARY

This report recommends amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, Article VIII, Owners and Drivers of Taxicabs, to permit vehicles that are registered, or have been registered as a taxicab in the forty-five (45) day period immediately preceding the date of application, to be used as replacement vehicles. In cases where the vehicle replacement is because of the cancellation of a lease, it is recommended that lessees be permitted to use the vehicle as a replacement vehicle within the life of the vehicle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that:

1. City Council approve amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, Article VIII, Owners and Drivers of Taxicabs, to permit vehicles that are registered, or have been registered as a taxicab in the forty-five (45) day period immediately preceding the date of application, to be used as replacement vehicles, and that where the vehicle replacement is because of the cancellation of a lease, lessees be permitted to use the vehicle as a replacement vehicle within the life of the vehicle.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year’s budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of March 24, 2015, Licensing and Standards Committee directed the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to report to the April 21, 2015 meeting with amendments that would reinstate the 45 day plate transfer rule that existed prior to the 2014 amendments.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.LS2.1>

At its meeting of February 19, 2014, City Council adopted the Taxicab Industry Review Final Report with amendments, which, among other things, required that all replacement vehicles meet prescribed environmental or accessibility standards.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.LS26.1>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In February 2014, City Council adopted the recommendations contained in the 2014 Taxicab Industry Review Final Report, as amended. One of the recommendations adopted at that time was that replacement vehicles had to meet prescribed environmental or accessibility standards. This particular change came into effect on June 13, 2014.

As a result of this change, vehicles which are registered as taxicabs could not be used as replacement vehicles unless they met the prescribed environmental or accessibility standards.

COMMENTS

Effective June 13, 2014, a vehicle used as a taxicab can only be replaced by a vehicle which meets prescribed accessibility and environmental standards. This requirement applies both when a vehicle must be replaced because of the applicable age limits and also when a vehicle is replaced before it reaches the applicable age limits.

Before June 13, 2014, vehicles that had been registered as a taxicab in the forty-five (45) day period immediately preceding the date of application could be used as replacement vehicles. In cases where the vehicle replacement was because of the cancellation of a lease, lessees were permitted to use the vehicle as a replacement vehicle within the life of the vehicle.

Sometimes taxicab owners, lessees and fleet operators remove a taxicab plate from the taxicab vehicle before the vehicle reaches the applicable age limit. Due to the environmental and accessibility standards which came into effect on June 13, 2014, taxicab vehicles that may still have a number of years permitted on the life of the vehicle are not permitted to be used as a taxicab vehicle any longer.

Staff are proposing to permit vehicles that have already been registered as a taxicab to continue to operate as a taxicab until the end of the vehicle life to allow flexibility for

taxicab owners, lessees and fleet operators. The prescribed environmental and accessibility standards will continue to apply when vehicles are replaced when they have reached the applicable vehicle age limit.

CONTACT

Marcia Stoltz
Acting Manager, Toronto Taxicab Licence Implementation
Municipal Licensing and Standards
Tel: 416-392-6071
Email: mstoltz@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Tracey Cook, Executive Director
Municipal Licensing and Standards