

B. Nothing shall prohibit the Director's revoking or suspending a license that was erroneously issued by the Department.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.060, 1980.)

**6.202.110 License—Objection or protest to issuance.**

Whenever a written objection or protest to the issuance of a new or renewal license has been received from any person and the license has been issued after consideration of the objection or protest, the Director shall notify any known complainant within ten (10) days after the license is issued, of the reasons for issuance over his/her objection.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.062, 1980.)

**6.202.120 License—Nontransferable—Exception.**

A license is not transferable; provided, that the Director may authorize transfer where no previously unlicensed person acquires a license thereby, and if, in the judgment of the Director, transferral is consistent with the purposes of the new license code.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.064, 1980.)

**6.202.130 License—Application—Completion.**

An application is complete when:

A. All information required by the application and by the provisions of the new license code have been received by the Director; and

B. All license and other required fees have been paid; and

C. Any surety bond, public liability insurance policy, or other deposit or document, whenever required by the provisions of the new license code, has been filed with the Director.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.066, 1980.)

**6.202.140 License—Application—Form.**

Application for any license shall be made in writing to the Director. Application shall be made in the name of the person required to be licensed by the provisions of the new license code. Application for any license shall be signed by the applicant or the applicant's personal representative.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.068, 1980.)

**6.202.150 License—Application—Investigation**

The Director may investigate the application. The Director shall request record checks, site inspections or confirmation of zoning compliance to be performed by appropriate City agencies when they are required by the new license code. If criminal conviction data is required, the Director may require that the applicant be fingerprinted for purposes of verifying identification. The agency to which such request has been directed shall ascertain whether the applicant, activity, and/or premises comply with the requirements of laws, rules, and regulations of laws, rules and regulations enforced by the agency. The agencies shall notify the Director in writing whether any violation is found, specifying any noncompliance. In the event a written reply is not received by the Director within thirty (30) days from the date of the original request for the check or inspection, the Director may issue the license if the applicant is deemed qualified to hold the license in all other respects.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.070, 1980.)

**6.202.160 License—Indicia property of City—Return.**

A. All licenses, or indicia of licensure, issued pursuant to the new license code remain the property of the City.

B. The licensee shall remove all licenses, or indicia of licensure, upon expiration, suspension or revocation of a license. Whenever a license is suspended or revoked, the licensee shall return all licenses, and indicia of licensure, to the Director. If they are not returned, they may be removed.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.072, 1980.)

**6.202.170 License—Required for each location.**

A. A separate license shall be obtained for each location at which a licensed activity is conducted, and each license shall be valid only at the location stated on the license.

B. All licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place and manner at the location stated on the license; provided, that if the licensee does not have an established place of business in the City, the license shall be carried on the person of the licensee while engaged in the activity for which the license is required. At all times while the licensee is engaged in the business or activity for which the license is required, each license, or indicia of licensure, shall be properly placed as

specified in the provisions of the new license code.

C. Any failure to comply with provisions of this section is a violation of the new license code. (Ord. 108934 § 1.074, 1980.)

#### **6.202.180 Change of location.**

A. Reinspection is required for every change of location, if a building, fire, health, or license site inspection of premises was required by the new license code at the original location. An inspection fee shall be imposed for each inspection visit to the new site.

B. Whenever a licensee changes the location of any activity for which a license is required, the Director shall reissue the license upon finding that:

1. The licensee has submitted the license to the Director for the change, and any change of location and inspection fees imposed by the new license code have been paid; and

2. The new location is in compliance with all provisions of the new license code relating to the premises and with applicable zoning, building, fire, and health ordinances, and laws, rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. (Ord. 108934 § 1.076, 1980.)

#### **6.202.190 License—Term.**

A. A license shall be issued only for a period specified by ordinance for that particular license.

B. Licenses shall be effective only through the dates specified on the face of each license. (Ord. 108934 § 1.078, 1980.)

#### **6.202.200 License fee—Proration.**

A. If an application is made for a new license to be effective during the last six (6) months of an annual license period, the license fee shall be one-half (1/2) of the annual license fee or the full change of location fee for that license, whichever is greater.

B. There shall be no proration of a license fee when the usual term of a license period of less than one (1) year is prescribed by the new license code. (Ord. 108934 § 1.080, 1980.)

#### **6.202.210 License fee—Refund.**

A license fee is refundable only if a license is denied, or if the license is issued where none is required, or the licensee never engages in licensed activity due to the refusal of any governmental

agency to issue a necessary license, or if the applicant for a license withdraws his/her application before the license is issued. (Ord. 108934 § 1.082, 1980.)

#### **6.202.220 License fee—Payment by bad check.**

Whenever payment of any fee imposed by the new license code is made by a check which is not honored by the drawee bank, any license issued pursuant to payment by that check is void from the date of license issuance. The license may be reissued upon payment of the original amount, plus an administrative charge provided by the License Fee Ordinance<sup>1</sup>, all by certified check, money order, or cash. (Ord. 108934 § 1.084, 1980.)

1. Editor's Note: The License Fee Ordinance is codified in Chapter 6.204 of this Code.

#### **6.202.230 License—Denial, suspension or revocation—Grounds.**

A license may be suspended, denied or revoked for violation of any ordinance or law which regulates licensed activity in order to further the public interest in public health, safety, and welfare. A license may also be denied, suspended, or revoked upon a finding that:

A. Any applicant or licensee, or any owner, officer or agent thereof has omitted to disclose any material fact necessary to make a statement not misleading, in any application for the license; or

B. Has charges pending against her/him or has been convicted of a crime or offense which directly relates to the activity for which the license is required, and the time elapsed since the date of conviction or release from jail or prison, whichever is more recent, is less than ten (10) years; or has been convicted of several crimes including at least one (1) within the last ten (10) years; or

C. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order which directly relates to the activity for which the license is required, in any judicial or administrative proceeding in which fraud, deceit, coercion, breach of trust, unfair method of competition, unfair or deceptive trade act or practice, or assertion of unconscionable contractual provisions, or other similar act, practice, or conduct, on the part of the licensee-applicant is proven, and the time elapsed since the judgment or order is less than ten (10) years; or

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D. Has violated or failed to comply with any applicable provisions of this Code or rule or regulation prescribed under this subtitle; provided, that failure to obtain a license shall not be grounds for license denial; or

E. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order, in any judicial or administrative proceeding for violation of any provision of a City ordinance or rule or regulation prescribed thereunder pertaining to fire, building, health, sanitation, zoning, weights and measures, consumer protection, environmental protection, or any other ordinance or law and which is applicable to the licensed activity or licensed premises; or

F. Has been determined to have discriminated against any person because of race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, political ideology, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap, in the course of licensed activity, in violation of a City ordinance, law, rule or regulation prescribed thereunder; or

G. Has violated or failed to comply with any final order of the Director or Hearing Examiner; or

H. Has failed to complete the application for a license as required by this Code; or

I. Has failed to obtain a license or permit required by state or other law necessary to engage in the licensed activity; or

J. Has failed to comply with RCW Chapters 49.12 and 28A.28, and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, regarding employment of minors; or

K. Any licensee has permitted or authorized his/her agent to violate or fail to comply with any provision of this Code.  
(Ord. 109651 § 1, 1981; Ord. 108934 § 1.090, 1980.)

#### **6.202.240 License—Summary suspension or revocation.**

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the new license code, a license may be suspended or revoked by order of the Director prior to hearing upon finding that:

1. There is reasonable cause to believe that grounds for license suspension or revocation exist and that continuation of the activity for which the license is required will cause a clear, substantial and imminent hazard to life, safety, property or privacy; or

2. Any surety bond or public liability insurance policy required by the new license code to be filed with the Director is impaired, fails or is cancelled.

B. Whenever any license is summarily suspended or revoked a hearing by the Hearing Examiner may be requested by the licensee within ten (10) days after the date of suspension or revocation. Such hearing shall be held within ten (10) days of request, unless a later date is agreed to by the licensee, with a minimum five (5) day notice to the licensee. The decision of the Hearing Examiner shall be issued within ten (10) days of the date of the hearing.

C. If a timely request for hearing is not filed by the applicant, the order for summary suspension or revocation by the Director shall be final; provided, that the Director may waive the ten (10) day requirement upon satisfaction that failure to receive notice of the order was beyond the control of the licensee.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.092, 1980.)

#### **6.202.250 License—Waiver of disqualifications.**

A. The Director may waive up to the full period of license disability based upon a criminal conviction or adverse civil ruling if there is evidence of rehabilitation, and the purposes of the new license code could otherwise be satisfied.

B. Issuance of a license following a waiver disability does not preclude the Director from subsequently reconsidering the conviction, judgment, or finding as grounds for license denial or revocation when additional evidence regarding the person's qualifications is presented within the period of disability.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.094, 1980.)

#### **6.202.260 License—Denial, suspension or revocation—Order.**

License suspension, revocation or denial shall be in writing in the form of an order and shall include a recital of the authority for the action, a brief and concise statement of facts which constitute the grounds for denial, suspension or revocation, and the Director's signature. A copy of the order, including notice of the right to a hearing shall be transmitted to the applicant.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.096, 1980.)

#### **6.202.270 License—Denial, suspension or revocation—Appeal.**

A. If the Director has ordered a license denied, suspended or revoked, the applicant may contest the denial by filing a notice of appeal and request for hearing with the Hearing Examiner within ten (10) days after service or mailing of the order.

B. If a timely request for hearing is filed by the applicant, hearing shall be scheduled before the Hearing Examiner and shall be conducted by the Hearing Examiner according to his/her rules for contested cases.

C. If a timely appeal is not filed by the applicant, the order of the Director denying, suspending or revoking the license shall be final; provided, that the Director may waive the ten (10) day requirement upon satisfaction that failure to receive notice of the order was beyond the control of the person requesting the hearing.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.100, 1980.)

**6.202.280 Continuation of business while complaint hearing decision pending.**

Except in the case of summary suspension or revocation, whenever a timely request for hearing on a complaint is filed, a licensee or an applicant for license renewal may engage in the activity for which the license is required, pending decision by the Hearing Examiner. An applicant not licensed in the preceding license year may not engage in the activity for which the license is required pending decision by the Hearing Examiner.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.102, 1980.)

**6.202.290 Hearing of claim on bond.**

A. In case of a claim by any person against a licensee's bond, if the Director does not commence a license suspension or revocation proceeding based on his/her claim, the claimant may pursue his/her claim to recovery before the Hearing Examiner, by filing a claim with the Director. The Director shall transmit the complaint on behalf of the claimant to the Hearing Examiner. The hearing shall be limited to the right to recovery against the licensee's bond.

B. The Hearing Examiner shall schedule a date for hearing, give notice to the claimant, the licensee, and the Department, and conduct the hearing according to Hearing Examiner rules for contested cases.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.104, 1980.)

**6.202.300 Hearing Examiner—Decision authority.**

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The Hearing Examiner may affirm or deny decisions of the Director to issue, deny, suspend, revoke, or condition issuance or continuance of a license.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.106, 1980.)

**6.202.310 Hearing Examiner—Decision final.**

The decision of the Hearing Examiner shall be final when the decision has been mailed to the last known address of each party. The Director may stay enforcement of a decision of the Hearing Examiner pending motion for reconsideration or pending judicial consideration of a stay, where the Director determines that no clear, substantial, and imminent hazard to the health, safety, welfare, privacy or property of any person would result.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.108, 1980.)

**6.202.320 Violation or failure to comply with the order of the Director or Hearing Examiner.**

If any applicant or licensee violates, refuses, or otherwise fails to comply with the provisions of any final order issued by the Director or Hearing Examiner, the Director may transmit the case and the entire record of the proceedings to the City Attorney, who may invoke the aid of the appropriate court to secure enforcement and compliance with the order.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.110, 1980.)

**6.202.330 License—Denial, suspension or revocation—Effect.**

A. Whenever a license is denied, no reapplication for that license will be considered by the Director until correction of the disability on which the denial was based.

B. Whenever a license is revoked, no new application for the license that has been revoked will be considered by the Director for a period of one (1) year, commencing on the date the order to revoke becomes final.

C. The period of suspension shall be a period as stated in the order to suspend, and may be for any period up to one (1) year commencing on the date the order to suspend becomes final.

D. When revoked, a license shall be cancelled. When suspended, the license shall be retained by the Director until such time as the terms of the suspension have been fulfilled. On that date, the Director shall return the license and all indicia of licensure previously surrendered, to the licensee. In the event the license period expires during a period of suspension, any application received by the Director within thirty (30) days after the suspension shall be considered as a renewal application. If the application is received more than thirty (30) days after the suspension, it shall be treated as a new application.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.112, 1980.)

**6.202.340 Consent agreement.**

A. The Director may enter into a consent agreement with the applicant or licensee for settlement of a contested case at any time prior to issuance of a decision by the Hearing Examiner. The consent agreement shall be in writing and signed by the applicant or licensee.

B. The agreement shall be final when signed by the Director.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.114, 1980.)

**6.202.350 Citation and arrest power.**

For purposes of new license code enforcement, Department employees may be commissioned by the Chief of Police as special police officers having the power to issue citations or make arrests for unlawful conduct, violation, and failure to comply with provisions of the new license code.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.120, 1980.)

**6.202.360 Administrative inspection.**

A. The Director or Chief of Police may conduct inspections pursuant to warrant issued by a magistrate.

B. Further, pursuant to the consent of the rightful occupier of premises, or of the custodian of a vehicle or personal property, and during reasonable business hours, for the purpose of determining compliance with the new license code, the Director or Chief of Police is authorized to:

1. Enter and inspect the premises;
2. Inspect books, records, reports or other data that a licensee is required to compile and maintain, to verify their authenticity and accuracy, and to make copies of them;
3. Inspect books, records, reports or other data that relate to a licensee's business organization, and to verify their authenticity and accuracy, and to make copies of them;
4. Inspect any motor vehicle for which a license, license plate, or license tag is required by the new license code;
5. Inspect objects or goods that are subject to regulation under the new license code, at the place where goods or objects are kept;
6. Inspect other items or objects whenever the Director has reason to believe that such things are relevant to an investigation authorized by the new license code.

C. The Director or Chief of Police is authorized to inspect without consent and without warrant where there is reasonable cause to believe that a clear and substantial risk to health, safety, welfare, or property of any person exists, or that destruction or removal of evidence of a violation of the new license code is likely to result, if an inspection is not made before a warrant can be issued.

D. Frequent, unannounced, routine inspections that are necessary to prevent a risk to the public health, safety and welfare may also be authorized by specific regulatory provisions identifying the subject of such inspection, the risk addressed by such regulation, and inspection personnel.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.130, 1980.)

**6.202.370 Unlawful acts.**

A. It is unlawful for any person to engage in any activity for which a license is required without first obtaining a license in accordance with the provisions of this Code;

B. It is unlawful for any person to employ an individual in the capacity of an agent if that agent

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has failed to obtain any license required by this Code;

C. It is unlawful for any licensee or agent thereof to authorize any unlicensed person to engage in activity for which a license is required, under color of a license issued to the licensee;

D. It is unlawful for any person to make or manufacture any license, license plate, badge, or tag required by this Code except upon order of the Director;

E. It is unlawful for any person other than the Director, a licensee, or agent thereof to possess any license, identification card, license plate, badge, or tag issued pursuant to this Code;

F. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly make, or cause or authorize to be made, any false entry, or misstatement of any material matter in any book, record, or writing required to be kept as provided in this Code.

(Ord. 109841 § 1, 1981; Ord. 108934 § 1.140, 1980.)

**6.202.380Bond—Requirements.**

Whenever the issuance of a license by the City is conditioned upon the furnishing of a bond, the applicant shall furnish to the Director for filing with the City Clerk a bond running to the City. Alternatively, in lieu of a bond, the applicant may file a cash deposit equal in value to the face amount of a required bond, and pay the costs of handling such deposit, as determined by the Director. Any action that would breach the condition on a bond shall be grounds for forfeiture of the deposit to the same extent as if recovery were on a bond.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.150, 1980.)

**6.202.390Bond—Form.**

The bond shall be executed by the license applicant named thereon and by a surety company meeting the requirements of RCW Chapter 48.28, as now or hereafter amended.

A. The name in which the license is issued shall appear as principal on the face of the bond.

B. The term of the bond shall be continuous, effective from the date of issuance of the license for which the bond is required, and maintained during the term of the license, plus one (1) year after the expiration date of the license, unless a claim is made against the bond as provided in this chapter. In such case, liability shall continue as to that claim until the matter is settled. As to future

obligations, the bond may be cancelled upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the licensee and the Director.

C. The amount of the bond shall be as required by the applicable licensing provision.

D. The form and sufficiency of the bond may be subject to approval by the City Attorney at the request of the Director.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.152, 1980.)

**6.202.400Bond—Conditions.**

The bond shall be conditioned on:

A. Compliance by the principal and his/her agents and employees with the applicable licensing ordinance; and

B. Performance by the principal and his/her agents of the terms of any contract and delivery of commodities and/or services in accordance with any agreement made between the principal and any person in the course of licensed activity; and

C. Honor of any guarantee or warranty, express or implied, made to any person in the course of licensed activity; and

D. Compliance with consumer protection statutes and ordinances, including, but not limited to, statutes or ordinances relating to false or misleading advertisements, unfair or deceptive acts or practices, unit pricing, labeling requirements, truth in lending and other disclosure requirements, and requirements of the Retail Installation Sales Act; and

E. Holding harmless and indemnifying the City from all claims, actions, and damages of every kind and description, other than those attributable to the sole negligence of the City, which may accrue to or be suffered by the City because of the principal's activities, including the costs and attorney's fees for defending against claims and actions, whether or not the claim or action is justified; and

F. Satisfaction of any fines, civil penalties, or orders of restitution arising out of the activities of a licensed business; and

G. Other conditions appropriate to the licensed activity as specified in the new license code.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.154, 1980.)

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**6.202.410 Bond—Claims against.**

A. Any person suffering damages or loss by reason of a breach of conditions on a bond or security may institute an action for recovery against the principal and the surety on the bond.

B. A claim may be made against the bond by:

1. Delivery to the Director of a copy of a summons and complaint by which a consumer has commenced a lawsuit against a licensee, alleging facts which, if proven, constitute breach of condition on the bond; or

2. The Director's filing a complaint for license revocation upon bases which, if proven, would be grounds for recovering on the bond; or

3. The Director's transmitting a claim to the Hearing Examiner on behalf of any person's claim against the bond if the Director does not commence a license suspension or revocation action on the basis of the person's claim. The Director shall transmit a copy of the summons and complaint, or complaint for revocation, to the surety, by deposit in the mail, or by delivery to a process-server within forty-eight (48) hours of its filing with the Department.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.156, 1980.)

**6.202.420 Bond—Execution.**

Execution on the bond shall be commenced by either:

A. Delivery to the Director of a certified copy of a judgment against the principal made by a court of competent jurisdiction, together with the complaint therein if it be necessary to establish the underlying cause of action; or

B. Entry of an order of license revocation based upon grounds that are also grounds for recovery on the bond and lapse of the appeal period if no appeal is taken; or

C. Receipt by the Director of an order of the Hearing Examiner upholding the revocation of a license on bases which are grounds for recovery on the bond, or conditioning issuance or continuance of a license upon satisfaction of conditions which are grounds for recovery on the bond; or

D. Receipt by the Director of an order of the Hearing Examiner upholding any person's claim against the bond.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.158, 1980.)

**6.202.430 Bond—Time to make claim.**

A. A claim shall be commenced within one (1) year of the expiration date of the license under

which the claim arose. Execution on a bond shall be made within thirty (30) days of entry of a judgment or an order against the licensee.

B. Notice to the Director constitutes notice to the principal and the surety, for purposes of executing on the bond, and the Director shall transmit the judgment or order (and complaint and/or written decision, if appended) to the principal and to the surety within forty-eight (48) hours of its delivery to him or her.

C. After the principal and surety receive copies of the judgment or order (and complaint and/or written decision, if appended), or after reasonable efforts to inform any party who cannot be found, the surety shall be liable to the injured party for the amount of the judgment or order, or to multiple complainants in an aggregate amount equal to the amount of the bond. In the case of a cash deposit, in lieu of bond, after like notice, payment shall be made upon voucher signed by the Director.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.160, 1980.)

**6.202.440 Bond—Exoneration.**

A. To the extent of any tender of payment the surety upon the bond shall be exonerated. If the actions commenced and pending at any one (1) time exceed the amount of the bond then unimpaired, claims shall be satisfied from the bond in the following order:

1. Judgments or orders for breach of contract, guarantee, warranty or violation of a consumer protection law, pro rata; then

2. Judgments or orders for failure to hold harmless or indemnify the City; then

3. Judgments or orders for other breach of condition on the bond.

B. A judgment or order shall constitute a lien on a bond until satisfied.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.162, 1980.)

**6.202.450 Bond—Not retroactive.**

No action against a bond filed pursuant to the new license code shall be recognized for acts occurring, or causes of action accruing, or final judgments or orders entered prior to the effective date of the new license code.<sup>1</sup>

(Ord. 108934 § 1.164, 1980.)

<sup>1</sup>Editor's Note: The Ordinance codified in this chapter became effective May 3, 1980.

6.202.460 BUSINESS REGULATIONS

**6.202.460Liability insurance.**

A. In those instances where the new license code requires that the applicant for the license shall provide insurance as a condition of receiving a license the purpose of the requirement is to insure that members of the public and the City will be compensated for losses caused by personal injury or property damage resulting from the tortious acts of the licensee or its agents or employees.

B. Whenever the issuance of a license is conditioned upon an applicant's obtaining liability insurance, each insurance policy:

1. Shall be issued by a company authorized to do business as an insurer in the state pursuant to the provisions of RCW Title 48 as now or hereafter amended; and

2. Shall contain the following recital:

"Should any of the above described policies be canceled before the expiration date thereof, the issuing company will mail twenty (20) days' prior written notice to the Finance Director. The policies shall remain in effect during this twenty (20) day cancellation period."

3. Shall name The City of Seattle as an additional insured;

4. May be approved as to sufficiency and form by the City Attorney at the request of the Director; and

5. Shall be furnished to the Director for filing with the City Clerk.

(Ord. 117169 § 98, 1994; Ord. 116368 § 192, 1992; Ord. 114848 § 1, 1989; Ord. 108934 § 1.170, 1980.)

**6.202.470Penalty for violation.**

A. Conduct made unlawful by the new license code, or violation or failure to comply with any provision of the new license code, rule or regulation, or final order of the Director or Hearing Examiner is a crime subject to the provisions of Chapters 12A.01 and 12A.02 of the Criminal Code,<sup>1</sup> unless specifically designated elsewhere in the new license code as a violation. Any person convicted of a crime is punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment for a term of not more than six (6) months, or both. Any person convicted of a violation is punishable by a civil fine or forfeiture not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

B. Each day of continued violation or non-compliance constitutes a separate offense. (Ord. 108934 § 1.180, 1980.)

1.Editor's Note: The Criminal Code is codified in Title 12A of this Code.

**6.202.480Endorsement disclaimer.**

Issuance of any license pursuant to the new license code does not constitute endorsement or approval of any goods or services offered by any licensee by the City.

(Ord. 108934 § 1.200, 1980.)

**6.202.490Disclaimer of City liability.**

A. Issuance of any license pursuant to the new license code does not constitute the creation of a duty by the City to any person or to indemnify any person for any wrongful acts of a licensee against any person or the public, or to guarantee the quality of goods, services, or expertise of a licensee, or to otherwise shift responsibility from the licensee to the City for proper training or conduct of self or agents, even if specific regulations require standards of training or conduct.

B. Nothing contained in the new license code is intended to be nor shall be construed to create or form the basis for any liability on the part of the City, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of a licensee or applicant for license to comply with the provisions of the new license code, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of the new license code on the part of the City by its officers, employees, or agents.

C. It is expressly the purpose of the new license code to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public, and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of the new license code.

D. It is the specific intent of the new license code to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon the licensee or applicant for license within its scope, and no provision of nor term used in the new license code is intended

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to impose any duty whatsoever upon the City or any of its officers or employees, for whom the implementation or enforcement of the new license code shall be discretionary and not mandatory.

E. Nothing contained in this code is intended to be nor shall be construed to create or form the basis for any liability on the part of the City, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of a licensee or applicant for license to comply with the provisions of the new license code, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of the new license code on the part of the City by its officers, employees or agents.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.220, 1980.)

**6.202.500 Prosecution or proceeding under former ordinance not affected.**

No prosecution or administrative action pending, and no violation of or noncompliance with any prior ordinance shall be terminated by the passage of the ordinance codified in this chapter. Any conviction, finding or license denial, suspension or revocation under any prior ordinance is relevant to the new license code and may be considered in license denial, suspension and revocation actions under the new license code.  
(Ord. 108934 § 1.400, 1980.)

**Chapter 6.204  
LICENSE FEES**

**Sections:**

- 6.204.010 Title—Purpose.**
- 6.204.020 Administrative fees.**
- 6.204.030 Residential sellers.**
- 6.204.040 Tow trucks.**
- 6.204.050 Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles.**
- 6.204.070 Rental agencies.**
- 6.204.080 Used goods.**
- 6.204.090 Steam engineers and boiler firemen.**
- 6.204.120 Tobacco product retailing.**

**6.204.010 Title—Purpose.**

This chapter is the “license fee ordinance” and may be cited as such. It establishes fees for licenses subject to the provisions of the new license code (Ordinance 108954),<sup>1</sup> but not for licenses **6.204.050 Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles.**

subject to the old license code (Ordinance 48022).<sup>2</sup>  
(Ord. 109081 § 1, 1980.)

- 1.Editor's Note: The new license code is codified in Subtitle III of this title.
- 2.Editor's Note: The old license code is codified in Subtitle I of this title.

**6.204.020 Administrative fees.**

Fees for administration of the new license code shall be:

Replacement of lost or destroyed license .....	\$5
Failure to return licensing indicia to the City .....	5.0
Inspection fee, for each visit .....	20
..... to the inspection site	20
Payment of license fee with dishonored check .....	20

(Ord. 116463 § 1, 1992; Ord. 109081 § 2, 1980.)

**6.204.030 Residential sellers.**

Annual fees for residential sellers licenses shall be:

Residential seller .....	\$135.00
Residential seller having one or more employees .....	20
Residential seller's agent card.....	45.00

(Ord. 116463 § 2, 1992; Ord. 113185 § 1 (part), 1986; Ord. 110889 § 1(part), 1982; Ord. 109081 § 3, 1980.)

**6.204.040 Tow trucks.**

The annual fees for tow truck licenses shall be:

Tow truck (operator) .....	\$325.00
Tow truck (vehicle) .....	100.00

(Ord. 116463 § 3, 1992; Ord. 113185 § 1 (part), 1986; Ord. 110889 § 1(part), 1982; Ord. 109081 § 4, 1980.)

6.204.050 BUSINESS REGULATIONS

A. Annual fees for taxicabs, for-hire vehicles and their drivers shall be:

Taxicab.....	\$240.00
For-hire vehicle.....	240.00
For-hire driver.....	55.00

B. Fees for the following services related to vehicles are:

Late payment surcharge for taxicab or for-hire vehicle license	\$ 22.50
Change of vehicles of same owner	50.00
Transfer of ownership (September through February)	240.00
(March through August)	
120.00 Replacement of taxicab indicia (SMC Section 6.212.050)	
10.00 Vehicle inspection (SMC Section 6.212.060)	
10.00	

C. Fees for the following services related to for-hire driver licensing:

Late payment surcharge	\$ 10.00
Fingerprinting	10.00
ID Photo	2.00
Replacement of license	5.00
Testing fee	20.00
Background check	equal to the charge assessed by the State Patrol to the City

(Ord. 116832 § 2, 1993; Ord. 116463 § 4, 1992: Ord. 115495 § 2, 1991: Ord. 114378 § 1, 1989: Ord. 113185 § 1(part), 1986: Ord. 111904 § 2, 1984: Ord. 110889 § 1(part), 1982: Ord. 109081 § 5, 1980.)

**6.204.070 Rental agencies.**

Annual fees for rental agency licenses shall be:  
Rental housing agency \$250.00  
(Ord. 109763 § 3, 1981: Ord. 109081 § 7, 1980.)

**6.204.080 Used goods.**

The annual fee for a used goods license shall be:  
Used goods dealer \$115.00  
(Ord. 116463 § 5, 1992: Ord. 113185 § 1(part), 1986: Ord. 110889 § 1(part), 1982: Ord. 110082 § 7, 1981: Ord. 109818 § 4, 1981: Ord. 109081 § 8, 1980.)

**6.204.090 Steam engineers and boiler firemen.**

The annual fee for a steam engineer's and boiler firemen's license shall be:  
Steam engineers and boiler firemen (all grades) \$45.00

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Boiler Supervisor Endorsement	30.00
Boiler Supervisor Certificate .....	30.00

(Ord. 116463 § 6, 1992; Ord. 113185 § 1(part), 1986; Ord. 111301 § 2, 1983.)

**6.204.120 Tobacco product retailing.**

A. The annual fee for issuance of a tobacco product retailer's license shall be One Hundred Thirty-five Dollars (\$135.00), per location, motor vehicle or operation.

B. The fee for reissuance of a license upon a change in a licensed tobacco product retailer's motor vehicle route shall be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).  
(Ord. 116464 § 7, 1992; Ord. 115948 § 7, 1991; Ord. 115531 § 2, 1991.)

**Chapter 6.208**

**SEATTLE FOR-HIRE DRIVER LICENSES**

**Sections:**

- 6.208.010 Definitions.**
- 6.208.020 License—Expiration date.**
- 6.208.030 License—Required.**
- 6.208.040 Grounds for license suspension, revocation or denial.**
- 6.208.050 Washington Driver's License required.**
- 6.208.060 Driving record.**
- 6.208.070 Criminal record history.**
- 6.208.080 Medical examination.**
- 6.208.090 Minimum age for for-hire driver license.**
- 6.208.100 Application for for-hire driver license.**
- 6.208.110 Examination for for-hire driver license.**
- 6.208.120 Reciprocal provisions with King County.**
- 6.208.130 Training course.**
- 6.208.140 Temporary license.**
- 6.208.150 Taxicab driver conduct standards.**
- 6.208.160 Taxicab driver misconduct.**

**6.208.010 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, "conviction," in addi-

tion to its general meaning (Section 6.202.060), means a traffic conviction as defined in RCW 46.20.270, as now or hereafter amended.  
(Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.020, 1980.)

**6.208.020 License—Expiration date.**

For-hire driver licenses expire annually on the anniversary of issuance.  
(Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.024, 1980.)

**6.208.030 License—Required.**

It is unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle for which a Seattle for-hire vehicle or taxicab license is required without a for-hire driver license.  
(Ord. 111905 § 1, 1984; Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.030, 1980.)

**6.208.040 Grounds for license suspension, revocation or denial.**

In addition to the reasons set forth in Seattle Municipal Code Section 6.202.230 as now or hereafter amended, a for-hire driver license may be suspended, revoked, or denied upon a finding that the licensee or applicant has:

- A. A Washington State Driver License that currently is suspended or revoked;
- B. An infirmity of body or mind that renders the licensee or applicant unfit for the safe operation of a motor vehicle;
- C. Used or has been found in possession of an alcoholic beverage or drug while in or while operating any taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
- D. Charged a passenger a rate or fare different than the rate or fare filed with the Director;
- E. Failed to meet the qualifications for a for-hire driver;
- F. Failed, while operating or in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, to wear or display a badge of identification or a sign, plaque, or card with the information and in the manner and form required by the Director by rule;
- G. Made any false statement in his/her application;
- H. Had a conviction or bail forfeiture involving crimes pertaining to controlled substances, prostitution, gambling, physical violence, or directly related to the applicant's honesty and integrity (such as but not limited to fraud, larceny, extortion) within three (3) years of the date of application;

For current SMC, contact the Office of the City Clerk

I. Exhibited past conduct in driving or operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle which would lead the Director to reasonably conclude that the applicant will not comply with the provisions of the ordinance related to driver/operator conduct and the safe operation of the vehicle;

J. Exhibited a past driving record which would lead the Director to reasonably conclude that the applicant would not operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle in a safe manner.

K. Violated any other provision of this chapter;

L. Had his or her for-hire driver license suspended or revoked by King County or the Port of Seattle; the basis for the suspension or revocation of the for-hire driver license is, or would be if the action occurred in Seattle, a basis for suspension or denial of a for-hire license under Sections 6.202.230 or 6.208.040.

(Ord. 115495 § 3, 1991; Ord. 111905 § 2, 1984; Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.140, 1980.)

#### **6.208.050 Washington Driver's License required.**

Each for-hire driver shall possess and show to the Director a valid Washington State Driver License and any special endorsement as may be required by state law.

(Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.200, 1980.)

#### **6.208.060 Driving record.**

Each applicant for a for-hire driver license shall provide to the Director a current certified copy of his/her driving record, obtained from the Washington State Department of Licensing, or at the Director's option, authorize the Director to secure the same.

(Ord. 115495 § 4, 1991; Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.210, 1980.)

#### **6.208.070 Criminal record history.**

The Director's investigation of each applicant for a for-hire driver license shall include a criminal history record check.

(Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.220, 1980.)

#### **6.208.080 Medical examination.**

A. Each applicant for a for-hire driver license shall complete a medical checklist form prepared by the Director and sworn to by the applicant showing the applicant to be physically and mentally qualified to drive a motor vehicle safely.

B. In response to a written or oral complaint about the applicant's/licensee's physical or mental qualifications, on personal observation of the applicant's/licensee's medical condition, or upon review of the applicant's/licensee's medical checklist, the Director may require as a condition of being licensed an applicant/licensee to be examined and found physically/mentally qualified by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Washington.

(Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.240, 1980.)

#### **6.208.090 Minimum age for for-hire driver.**

In addition to any other requirement for a for-hire driver license, the applicant must be twenty-one (21) years of age.

(Ord. 115495 § 5, 1991; Ord. 111905 § 3, 1984.)

#### **6.208.100 Application for for-hire driver license.**

A. The applicant shall file an application on a form furnished by the Director, which shall be signed and sworn to by the applicant and shall contain the following information about the applicant:

1. Name, height, weight, color of hair and eyes;
2. Current residence address;
3. Place and date of birth;
4. Whether a citizen or noncitizen;
5. Last place of employment;
6. Whether the applicant has ever had a for-hire driver or other similar license suspended, revoked, or denied, and if so, the cause;

7. Names and addresses of four (4) references, other than relatives, who have known the applicant for two (2) years.

9. Such other information as the Director reasonably deems necessary.

(Ord. 111905 § 4, 1984.)

#### **6.208.110 Examination for for-hire driver license.**

Each applicant must successfully complete an examination. The examination will test the applicant's knowledge of the ordinance require-

ments regarding fares and rates; the applicant's ability to understand oral and written directions in the English language; vehicle safety requirements; driver regulations; and geographic knowledge of The City of Seattle and King County.

An applicant with a current and valid license need not take the examination.

(Ord. 115498 § 6, 1991; Ord. 111905 § 5, 1984.)

#### **6.208.120 Reciprocal provisions with King County.**

Any person who exhibits proof of being licensed as a for-hire driver by King County, Washington, may obtain a City endorsement and operate in the City without payment of a license fee.

(Ord. 109648 § 1(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 4.300, 1981.)

#### **6.208.130 Training course.**

Each for-hire driver must have completed an approved training course, offered or certified by the Director, as contemplated by Section 6.212.270.

(Ord. 115495 § 7(part), 1991.)

#### **6.208.140 Temporary license.**

The Director is authorized to issue a temporary for-hire driver's license valid for up to sixty (60) days to an applicant, who (a) has satisfactorily completed the written examination required by Section 6.208.110; (b) enrolled in or has a scheduled enrollment in the training course required by Sections 6.208.130 and 6.212.270; and (c) meets the other requirements of this ordinance. The Director may revoke a temporary permit for any of the reasons in Sections 6.202.230 or 6.208.040 and for failure to take or complete the training course.

(Ord. 115495 § 7(part), 1991.)

#### **6.208.150 Taxicab driver conduct standards.**

A driver of a taxicab shall:

A. Operate a taxicab only when the vehicle is working properly; the vehicle contains the documents required by law or this ordinance; and he or she has the necessary licenses on his or her person;

B. Occupy a taxi zone only when available for hire;

C. Offer service to all customers and treat passengers in a professional and courteous manner, without discrimination among individuals, by

reason of race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, political ideology, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap; and a driver shall accept as passengers people who are

handicapped or disabled and allow their guide dogs to accompany them;

D. Assist a passenger in placing luggage or packages up to fifty (50) pounds in and out of the taxicab, when useful or requested; encourage the use of seat belts and child passenger restraint systems as contemplated by RCW 46.61.687; and limit the number of passengers transported to the seatbelts or restraint devices available;

E. When charges are measured by the taximeter, set the meter accurately and keep the meter visible to the passenger; unless a discount applies, collect the fare shown on the meter; and offer to provide a passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare as contemplated by Section 6.212.130;

F. Transport passengers to, and pick-up passengers in, all geographic areas of Seattle;

G. Use the most direct, available route on all trips unless the passenger requests another route, or, traffic congestion makes another route more expeditious;

H. At the end of each trip, check the vehicle to determine whether the passenger has left any article; and if so, return it to the passenger or deliver it to the City for safekeeping and/or return to the owner;

I. Complete the tripsheet required by Section 6.212.210; and

J. Cooperate fully with inspections by the Director of the taxicab, of tripsheets and other required documents; with investigations by the Director to determine compliance with or enforce this ordinance; and with investigations by law enforcement and municipal authorities involving vehicular accidents and crimes.

(Ord. 115495 § 7(part), 1991.)

#### **6.208.160 Taxicab driver misconduct.**

A taxicab driver shall not:

A. Refuse to provide service to a prospective passenger because:

1. The customer uses a wheelchair, if the wheelchair can be folded or otherwise placed in the taxicab,

2. The customer, who is disabled, is accompanied by a guide dog,

3. The customer is eligible for a discount rate or will use METRO scrip for payment; provided, that the taxi driver or taxi company has a current contract with METRO to accept taxi scrip,

4. The customer selects a taxicab other than the first cab in the taxicab line, or

**6.211.080 Rates—Filing.**

5. The customer directs the driver to a destination in a particular geographic area of Seattle;

B. Without the consent of all passengers, smoke while the taxicab is occupied or carry a passenger who does not pay a fare when required by this ordinance;

C. Leave a taxicab unattended in a taxicab zone or perform maintenance or repairs on a taxicab in such a zone;

D. Possess any open or unsealed container of any alcoholic beverage; drink any alcoholic beverage while he or she is on duty or at any time during the eight (8) hours immediately before starting service; or use any controlled substance or drug while working or beforehand that may affect his or her ability to operate the taxicab; and

E. While operating the taxicab engage in unlawful conduct or allow the taxicab to be used for any unlawful purpose.

(Ord. 115495 § 7(part), 1991.)

### **Chapter 6.211**

#### **FOR-HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING**

##### **Sections:**

**6.211.010 Definitions.**

**6.211.020 License—Expiration date.**

**6.211.030 License—Required.**

**6.211.040 License—Exemptions.**

**6.211.050 License—Indicia.**

**6.211.060 Grounds for license suspension, revocation, or denial.**

**6.211.070 Financial responsibility.**

**6.211.090 Rates—Basis.**

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**6.211.100 Rates—Available to public.**

**6.211.110 Receipt to be provided.**

**6.211.010 Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

A. “For-hire vehicle” means any motor vehicle which carries passengers for a fee, other than a taxicab as defined by Seattle Municipal Code Section 6.212.010 now or hereafter amended.

B. “Operate” means engage in the business of operating a for-hire vehicle by picking up any passenger within the corporate limits of Seattle, for a fee, and includes owning, leasing or otherwise controlling the use of the for-hire vehicle. (Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.020 License—Expiration date.**

For-hire vehicle licenses expire annually on August 31st.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.030 License—Required.**

It is unlawful for any person to operate a for-hire vehicle without a license to do so in accordance with the provisions of the new license code.<sup>1</sup> A separate license shall be required for each vehicle operated.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

1. Editor's Note: The new license code is set out in Subtitle III of Title 6 of this Code.

**6.211.040 License—Exemptions.**

A for-hire vehicle license is not required for:

A. A government entity or any person leasing or otherwise controlling the operation of a government-owned vehicle;

B. A person operating a vehicle for a public or a private school, where the vehicle is used solely for transporting students, teachers and school-authorized supervisory personnel;

C. Any hotel, motel, or similar business operating a vehicle to transport overnight guests;

D. Operation of a vehicle covered by a certificate authorizing transportation of passengers which is issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission or the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission;

E. Any person operating a vehicle transporting passengers between their homes or nearby termini, and their places of employment, in a single daily round trip, where the driver is also

commuting to or from his/her place of employment.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.050 License—Indicia.**

License indicia in such form and content as prescribed by the Director shall be issued with each for-hire vehicle license, and shall be attached to the vehicle as prescribed by the Director. Whenever for-hire vehicle license indicia are lost, stolen, or destroyed, and not returned to the Director, new indicia may be issued upon the payment of a replacement fee, as specified in the License Fee Ordinance,<sup>1</sup> and the filing of an affidavit of loss. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section is a violation.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

1. Editor's Note: The License Fee Ordinance is set out at Chapter 6.204 of this Code.

**6.211.060 Grounds for license suspension, revocation, or denial.**

In addition to the reasons set forth in Seattle Municipal Code Section 6.202.230 as now or hereafter amended, a for-hire vehicle license may be suspended, revoked, or denied upon a finding that the licensee or applicant:

A. Operated or drove a for-hire vehicle that was not equipped nor in safe condition as required by the Seattle Traffic Code, as now or hereafter amended, or RCW Chapter 46.37 as now or hereafter amended;

B. Used or allowed the use of:

1. The word “taxicab,” “taxi,” or “cab” on a for-hire vehicle or in any advertising or listing,

2. A dome or top light on a for-hire vehicle, or

3. Any equipment or color scheme on a for-hire vehicle in such a manner as to cause it to appear to be a taxicab;

C. Cruised for customers, or parked or picked up passengers in any taxicab zone, or permitted such use of a taxicab zone;

D. Operated or drove a for-hire vehicle that was not insured as provided in Seattle Municipal Code Section 6.211.070 as now or hereafter amended;

E. Has not complied with any other provision of this chapter.  
(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.070Financial responsibility.**

A. All for-hire vehicle licensees shall maintain and furnish to the Director proof of compliance with RCW Chapter 46.72, as now or hereafter amended, relating to financial responsibility. Such proof shall consist of for-hire certification with the state of Washington.

B. Additionally, all licensees shall maintain a policy of underinsured motorist coverage which runs to the benefit of passengers. The City need not be named as an additional insured but, in any event, will be listed as a certificate holder in the policy. Proof of compliance will consist of a certificate of insurance indicating a minimum coverage of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per person and Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per accident. The City of Seattle will be notified at least ten (10) days in advance of any lapse of coverage.

C. Licensees may meet the above requirements for financial responsibility through a program of self-insurance pursuant to RCW 46.29.630.

D. If an insurance policy is canceled, proof of a new policy must be filed with The City of Seattle prior to the date of cancellation. If The City of Seattle does not receive a new certificate of insurance prior to the date of cancellation, the for-hire vehicle license must be surrendered to the Director until such time that a new certificate of insurance is filed.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.080Rates—Filing.**

A. Every for-hire vehicle licensee shall file with the Director a complete list of transportation and ancillary services offered and a complete schedule of rates for such services. The rates shall become effective on the effective date of the license.

B. The list of services and schedule of rates shall remain in effect until amended. Amendment shall be accomplished by filing with the Director a complete amended list and schedule, and shall be effective immediately.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.090Rates—Basis.**

For-hire vehicle rates shall be based only upon:

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A. A written contract; or  
B. Where there is a regularly scheduled route filed with the Director, a flat charge per person or per trip; or

C. An hourly rate with minimum increments of one-half (1/2) hour. In this case, the for-hire vehicle shall be equipped with an accurate clock visible to and readable by passengers.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.100Rates—Available to public.**

Licensees and drivers shall keep available, for members of the public on request, complete and accurate schedules of effective rates for transportation and ancillary services. Such schedules shall be identical to those filed with the Director.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**6.211.110Receipt to be provided.**

For-hire vehicle licensees and their drivers shall provide customers with a receipt, when requested. The receipt shall include the following information in legible form:

A. Names of the licensee and the vehicle driver;

B. Seattle for-hire vehicle license number;

C. Date, time and place of the origin and dismissal; and

D. An itemized listing of charges and the total fare paid or charged.

(Ord. 111904 § 1(part), 1984.)

**Chapter 6.212  
TAXICABS**

**Sections:**

**6.212.010Definitions.**

**6.212.020License—Expiration date.**

**6.212.030License—Required.**

**6.212.040License—Application.**

**6.212.042Regulation of fares—Limiting licenses outstanding.**

**6.212.045Maximum limit on licenses.**

**6.212.045Allocation of licenses.**

**6.212.047Transfer of licenses.**

**6.212.050License—Indicia.**



- 6.212.055** Condition of taxicabs.
- 6.212.060** Safety, meter, and posting inspections.
- 6.212.065** Authority of Director.
- 6.212.070** Grounds for license suspension, revocation, or denial.
- 6.212.080** Financial responsibility.
- 6.212.090** Failure to pay judgment.
- 6.212.100** Rates—Filing.
- 6.212.110** Rates—Changing.
- 6.212.115** Rate ceiling.
- 6.212.116** Discount rates.
- 6.212.117** Extra charges prohibited for carrying baggage.
- 6.212.118** Surcharges.
- 6.212.119** Limitation on wait time charges.
- 6.212.120** Posting rates and displaying identifying information.
- 6.212.130** Receipt provided upon request.
- 6.212.140** Contract rates.
- 6.212.145** Shared-ride service.
- 6.212.150** Notice to passengers.
- 6.212.160** Equipment.
- 6.212.170** Packages.
- 6.212.180** Violation of county or Port of Seattle regulation.
- 6.212.190** Impoundment of taxicabs.
- 6.212.200** Zone fare.
- 6.212.210** Trip sheets required.
- 6.212.220** Cooperative agreement authorized.
- 6.212.250** Two (2) way communications equipment.
- 6.212.260** Information for rate regulation.
- 6.212.270** Training course.
- 6.212.280** Restitution—Complaint resolution.
- 6.212.290** Administrative assessments.
- 6.212.310** Procedures applicable to restitution and administrative assessments.

**6.212.010** Definitions.

For purpose of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

A. “Association representative” means the person authorized to file rates, trade or business name, color scheme, or other identification and information for a taxicab association with the Director and to receive communications from the Director to the taxicab association.

B. “Cabulance” means a taxicab that is wheelchair accessible.

C. “Customer contract” means a written agreement signed by the customer and a taxicab owner or driver in advance of the dispatch of a taxicab for the transportation of a passenger or a package identified in the contract.

D. “Independent taxicab” means a taxicab that is not a part of a taxicab association.

E. “Operate” means to drive or to be in actual physical control of a vehicle on a City street. It excludes testing in the course of repair or maintenance of the vehicle by an approved mechanic; or inspecting or impounding by City officers.

F. “Owner” means the registered owner as defined by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.04.460, as now or hereafter amended.

G. 1. “Taxicab” means a motor vehicle which (a) carries passengers for a fare and as to which (b) any of the following characteristics apply:

(i) The motor vehicle is fitted with a taximeter to measure the amount of the fare;

(ii) The motor vehicle carries signs or indicia of a taxicab, such as the terms, “taxi,” “cab,” or “taxicab”;

(iii) The motor vehicle is held out to the public as providing transportation to passengers to destinations that the passengers determine; or

(iv) The motor vehicle is regularly used in providing transportation to passengers for a fare and none of the exclusions in the next sentence apply.

2. The term, “taxicab,” excludes buses on fixed routes; passenger charter carriers regulated under RCW Chapter 81.70 and limousine charter carriers regulated under RCW 81.90; car pools and ride-sharing vehicles; express vans between an airport and the passenger's residence or lodging; and subject to refinement by Director's rule, vehicles provided by employers, educational or health care institutions, hotels, residential or office buildings, or nonprofit organizations and used primarily to provide passenger transportation in connection with the passenger's employment, education, health care, lodging, residence or tenancy or organizational programs, respectively, and vehicles or operators expressly exempt by RCW from local regulation.

**6.212.010 BUSINESS REGULATIONS**

H. "Taxicab association" means an organization of owners or operators of ten (10) or more taxicabs licensed within King County that uses the same trade name, color scheme, dispatch services, and association representative.

I. "Taximeter" means a device in a for-hire vehicle which measures, records and indicates a single fare, rate, or charge due for transportation. The fare, rate or charge is calculated using such factors as distance traveled, waiting time, an initial charge, and a rate for each factor. (Ord. 115495 § 8, 1991; Ord. 111906 § 1, 1984; Ord. 109635 § 1, 1981; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.020, 1980.)

**6.212.020 License—Expiration date.**

Taxicab licenses expire annually on August 31st. (Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.024, 1980.)

**6.212.030 License—Required.**

It is unlawful for any person to engage in the business of operating a taxicab without first obtaining a taxicab license for each vehicle. (Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.030, 1980.)

**6.212.040 License—Application.**

Application for the taxicab license shall include at least the following information:

- A. Ownership of the vehicle to be licensed;
- B. Identification of the vehicle and company vehicle number;
- C. Name or trade name under which the vehicle is to be operated;
- D. Distinguishing color scheme, business name, or other identification scheme to be used on the vehicle;
- E. Proof of a valid Washington State for-hire certificate;
- F. Whether any of the owners have been convicted of any crimes within the ten (10) years preceding the application;
- G. Such other information as the Director may require.

(Ord. 115495 § 9, 1991; Ord. 111906 § 2, 1984; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.068, 1980.)

**6.212.042 Regulation of fares—Limiting license outstanding.**

A. Resumption of Regulation. As authorized by RCW Chapter 81.72, the Finance Director shall limit the maximum number of taxicab licenses outstanding as contemplated by Seattle Municipal Code Section 6.212.044.

B. Purpose; Goal. The maximum limit on licenses shall be set each year by ordinance and to provide Seattle residents and visitors with prompt, efficient taxicab service responsive to public demand; in inviting, well-maintained taxicabs that meet all safety and equipment standards; at reasonable fares and charges; without establishing a substantial scarcity value; and in a manner that accords equal employment and business opportunity and non-discriminatory treatment as contemplated by Seattle's Human Rights ordinances, and, in event of an agreement with King County for regional licensing, the terms and goals of the agreement.

C. Reduction in Licenses. If a reduction in the maximum number of licenses is to occur, City policy favors a gradual decrease in licenses outstanding through attrition.

D. Annual Review. At least sixty (60) days before the anniversary date of the previous review, the Director shall submit to the Mayor and the City Council and file with the City Clerk a recommendation of the maximum number of licenses to be allowed. The Director shall consider, among other factors, response time, public demand, geographic coverage, quality of service, any "scarcity value" of licenses, and the impact of the increased licenses. The Director shall also submit a report evaluating current fare, rates and charges and licensing in light of the City's goals; setting out the City's coordination with King County and the Port of Seattle, if any; and containing an analysis of the financial condition of the industry as contemplated by Section 6.212.260. The City Council will schedule a public hearing thereon; the public hearing may be held jointly with the King County Council.

E. Citizens' Taxicab Advisory Board. There is hereby created a Citizens' Taxicab Advisory Board consisting of seven (7) members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to approval by the Council, to serve without compensation for a term of three (3) years without eligibility for reappointment to consecutive terms.

The Advisory Board shall at all times, include two (2) members representing the taxicab industry, four (4) members at-large representing general consumer interests and one (1) member familiar with the transportation needs of senior citizens and the disabled. The Director shall provide limited staff assistance and facilities for the Board.

The duties of the Advisory Board are to review taxi regulations in effect and make recommendations to the Director. The Advisory Board shall review all elements of the regulations including but not restricted to setting of taxi fares and taxi licensing.

In the event of an agreement with King County for regional licensing, the recommendations of the Advisory Board shall be used in developing recommendations on regional taxi issues, including such items as taxi fares and licensing. (Ord. 117169 § 99, 1994; Ord. 116368 § 193, 1992; Ord. 115495 § 10(part), 1991.)

**6.212.044 Maximum limit on licenses.**

The maximum number of taxicab licenses that may be outstanding during the period January 1, 1991 through August 31, 1991 shall not exceed the number outstanding at midnight on December 31, 1990 as determined from departmental records. If Seattle and King County agree to a system of regional licensing so that a taxicab licensed in either jurisdiction may operate in both, the maximum limit shall be adjusted so that the owner of a vehicle under a license from both the City and King County for the same vehicle as of November 20, 1990 may receive either a license from Seattle or from King County for operation within Seattle/King County area but not two (2) regional licenses. The Director may issue supplemental licenses for cabulances to serve people using wheelchairs. (Ord. 115495 § 10(part), 1991.)

**6.212.045 Allocation of licenses.**

A. Single City/County License. To the extent that a taxicab license by Seattle or King County allows the licensee to operate within both Seattle and King County, only one (1) license may be issued for any one (1) vehicle. Taxicab licensees that on November 20, 1990 had a taxicab license from both Seattle and King County for the same vehicle or for a vehicle in service and one (1) not in service may elect to secure a Seattle taxicab

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license or a King County taxicab license but not both.

B. Preference for Current Holders. Licensees whose licenses are about to expire or have expired during the previous thirty (30) days shall receive preference for issuance of new taxicab licenses to replace the license currently held; provided, however, a licensee who has a taxicab license from King County and operates within an area newly annexed to the City may secure a license to continue operating his or her existing cab(s) or replacement cab(s).

C. Allocation of Remainder. The Director shall recommend for Council approval, a fair and equitable system for determining to whom any remaining licenses shall be issued. The system may, but is not required to, include: maintenance of waiting lists of applicants; adoption of an objective rating system of making selections among applications; consideration of applicants by their experience and driving records; and/or taking into account the willingness of applicants to locate in geographic neighborhoods with the greatest need for service.

(Ord. 115495 § 11(part), 1991; Ord. 115418 § 1(part), 1990; Ord. 115014 § 1(part), 1990; Ord. 114903 § 1(part), 1989; Ord. 114352 § 1(part), 1989; Ord. 113613 § 3(part), 1987.)

**6.212.047 Transfer of licenses.**

The owner of a taxicab vehicle license may transfer a license to any other motor vehicle of the licensee with the approval of the Director. A licensee may apply for a transfer of the taxicab license to another owner; an application for transfer confers the preference accorded a current license holder under SMC 6.212.045; in other respects, the transferee must complete an application and shall comply with all requirements of this chapter. The license for any taxicab not in actual use for a period of ninety (90) days shall, at the discretion of the Director, be considered abandoned.

(Ord. 115495 § 11(part), 1991; Ord. 115418 § 1(part), 1990; Ord. 115014 § 1(part), 1990; Ord. 114903 § 1(part), 1989; Ord. 114352 § 1(part), 1989; Ord. 113613 § 3(part), 1987.)

**6.212.050 License—Indicia.**

License indicia in such form and content as

prescribed by the Director, shall be issued with each taxicab license, and shall be attached to the vehicle as prescribed by the Director. Whenever license indicia is lost, stolen or destroyed, new indicia may be issued upon the payment of a replacement fee as specified in the License Fee Ordinance<sup>1</sup> and the filing of an affidavit of loss. If the original license indicia is recovered, it shall be returned to the Director promptly. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section is a violation.

(Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.072, 1980.)

1. Editor's Note: The License Fee Ordinance is codified in Chapter 6.204 of this Code.

**6.212.055 Condition of taxicabs.**

Taxicabs shall be maintained, tuned, conditioned and/or have engine overhauls up to the standards and with the calendar frequency recommended by the manufacturer of the vehicle. To assure continuous reliability, the Director may require that at every fifty thousand (50,000) mile interval, the holder of the vehicle license present a certificate from an authorized dealer or reputable garage that the vehicle has been inspected through mechanical and diagnostic tests and has been found to be in good working order and appears suitable for use as a taxicab.

(Ord. 115495 § 12, 1991.)

**6.212.060 Safety, meter, and posting inspections.**

A. All taxicabs may be inspected from time to time as determined by the Director in response to complaints received or observations that such is desirable, for the purpose of determining proper equipment and safe, healthy, and sanitary conditions for the transportation of passengers, provided that inspections shall be conducted at least annually. The Director shall promulgate rules and regulations which set forth standards of safety, health, and sanitation required for taxicabs and the scope of taxicab inspections, including but not limited to standards regarding cleanliness, brakes, lights, tires, glass, seat belts, two-way radio or telephone communications, trunk or luggage carriage, headlights, exhaust, heaters, steering, suspension, taximeters, and any special equipment that may be required.

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B. Recognizing that changing tire or wheel size, or tampering with the gears or seal of taximeters, or otherwise altering the approved operation of taximeters has sometimes occurred, and that such tampering is difficult to discover unless taximeters are closely inspected, the Director shall inspect all taximeters at least once each year, and may inspect them at any reasonable time to determine continuing compliance with the License Code and the Weights and Measures Code.<sup>1</sup>

C. Recognizing that proper posting of taxicab rates inside the vehicle as determined by the Director is a crucial source of consumer information and that such posting cannot be checked for compliance unless the vehicle is entered for inspection, the Director shall inspect all rate posting for proper form, location, and information at least annually, and may so inspect at any reasonable time to determine continuing compliance with the License Code.<sup>1</sup>

D. The Director may issue a temporary permit to operate a taxicab if the Department cannot provide for annual reinspection of a previously approved meter as required herein. The temporary permit shall expire at eight (8:00) a.m. on the first day that the Department can inspect the taxicab meter or on the sixtieth day following issuance, whichever occurs first. No temporary permit shall be issued unless all other conditions of this Code have been fulfilled.

(Ord. 115495 § 13, 1991; Ord. 111906 § 3, 1984; Ord. 110300 § 1, 1981; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.130, 1980.)

1.Editor's Note: The new license code is codified in Subtitle III of this title; the Weights and Measures Code is codified in Chapter 7.04 of this Code.

#### **6.212.065 Authority of Director.**

The Director is authorized to promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Code (Chapter 3.02; Ordinance 102228, as amended) for:

A. Assigning to each taxicab an identification number requiring the number be displayed, and directing the manner of its display in the interior and on the exterior of the taxicab;

B. Regulating the color scheme and business names of taxicabs and taxicab associations in order to assist the public in identifying and dif-

ferentiating taxicabs; making all color schemes subject to the Director's review and approval; requiring all taxicabs in a taxicab organization to use the same color scheme and trade name; and requiring a taxicab that is not part of a taxicab organization to use a color scheme, a sign, and/or lettering that clearly identifies it as an independent;

C. Requiring disclosure of information by taxicab associations comparable to that required of taxicab licensees; adoption of competency standards for mechanics who service, maintain or repair taxicabs; requiring that servicing, maintenance and/or repair be performed by mechanics satisfying the competency standards; and providing for inspection of the maintenance and service records of taxicabs, drivers and organizations;

D. Issuance of a temporary permit, valid for no more than thirty (30) days, to a licensee for the use of a taxicab as a temporary replacement for a licensed taxicab which is undergoing repairs or otherwise temporarily inoperable;

E. Reporting and return of property left by a passenger in a taxicab;

F. Acceptance of Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (METRO) scrip from passengers, who present appropriate Metro identification, as payment for a fare, providing that the taxi driver or taxi company has a current contract with METRO to accept taxi scrip; maintenance of a prudent amount of cash for making change; and for acceptance of alternatives to cash (e.g., traveler's checks, money orders, personal checks, and Canadian currency) from passengers unable to make other payment;

G. Prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices;

H. Regulating conduct of drivers while in a taxicab zone;

I. Establishing a system for receiving and processing complaints from passengers and other aggrieved persons; providing for investigation; allowing drivers, owners, or taxicab organizations an opportunity to respond to allegations involving them; mediating disputes; and making findings;

J. Distinguishing taxicabs from other vehicles that provide transportation for passengers; and

K. Surrendering vehicle licenses.  
(Ord. 115495 § 14, 1991.)

#### **6.212.070 Grounds for license suspension, revocation, or denial.**

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In addition to the reasons set forth in SMC 6.202.230 as now or hereafter amended, a taxicab license also may be suspended, revoked, or denied upon a finding that the licensee or applicant has:

A. Falsified any record, document, or information required to be kept or submitted to the Director (or Hearing Examiner) by this title, or by rule or regulation prescribed hereunder, or failed to supply information asked or required of him or her for rate-setting purposes;

B. Driven, or authorized any person to drive a taxicab which was not equipped and in safe condition as required by the Seattle Traffic Code<sup>1</sup> and RCW 46.37, as now or hereafter amended;

C. Driven, or authorized any person to drive a taxicab which was not equipped with seat belts for all passengers;

D. Driven, or authorized any person to drive a taxicab designed for the transportation of persons confined to a wheelchair unless retaining locks for wheelchairs were installed and operable;

E. Charged, or authorized a driver to charge, any passenger an amount different than a rate or charge filed pursuant to this chapter, or, if the transportation was provided pursuant to a contract or zone fare, an amount different than the rate or charge set forth in the contract or provided for by ordinance;

F. Used, or authorized to be used, a trade name, color scheme, or other identification upon a taxicab or in any advertising or public listing, which was likely to be confused with the registered trade name, scheme, or identification of another licensee or which tended to deceive or mislead the public as to the type of service offered;

G. Carried any passenger to the destination by a route that was not the safest and most direct, unless the customer specifically authorized the deviation or alternate route;

H. Refused to accept as a passenger any person who requested transportation when the taxicab was not already carrying a passenger, unless the person created a hazard to the driver's safety or was unable to pay the fare;

I. Operated, or authorized a person to operate a taxicab unless it was equipped with a taximeter, the taximeter had been inspected and approved by the Director, and on which the seal had not been broken, the size of the gears operating the taximeter had not been changed, and the taximeter had not been changed from one vehicle or another, or otherwise tampered with from the time of the Director's last inspection;

J. Activated the meter when the taxicab was not employed or failed to activate the meter at the beginning of each trip, unless the transportation was provided pursuant to a written contract or zone fare as required by ordinance;

K. Activated any equipment which indicated that the taxicab was carrying a passenger when it was not, or failed to activate such equipment when the taxicab was carrying a passenger;

L. Used a taxistand for purposes other than to await the carriage of passengers for-hire;

M. Picked up additional passengers without the approval of the original passenger;

N. Charged a rate not in compliance with shared-ride rates as filed with the Director;

O. Left a taxicab unattended in a taxistand, or slept in a taxicab in a taxistand, for more than fifteen (15) minutes;

P. Carried any person or pet other than the passenger or a licensed trainee in the taxicab without the express approval of the passenger;

Q. Drove or authorized a driver to drive a taxicab without a valid taxicab license;

R. Drove or authorized a driver to drive a taxicab who does not have a valid for-hire driver's license or who has not completed an approved training course contemplated by SMC Section 6.212.270 within the preceding two (2) years;

S. Drove or authorized a driver to drive a taxicab that was not insured as required by SMC Section 6.212.080;

T. Failed to provide or maintain the communication equipment required by SMC Section 6.212.250;

U. Declined to provide service to a neighborhood of Seattle or, unless the operator provided a sound basis therefor, refused to respond to a call from a dispatcher because of the location of the pickup;

V. Engaged in discrimination as an employer in violation of SMC Chapter 14.04, or discriminated in service to the public upon the basis of race, color, sex, marital status, sexual orientation,

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political ideology, age, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap, except where the same is a bona fide qualification in providing service;

W. The taxicab owner or driver has been convicted of a crime while using a taxicab. (Ord. 115492 § 1, 1991; Ord. 113613 § 8, 1987; Ord. 111906 § 4, 1984; Ord. 109635 § 2, 1981; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.150, 1980.)

1. Editor's Note: The Seattle Traffic Code is codified in Title 11 of this Code.

#### **6.212.080 Financial responsibility.**

A. All taxicab licensees shall maintain and furnish to the Director proof of compliance with RCW Chapter 46.72, as now or hereafter amended, relating to financial responsibility. Such proof shall consist of proof of for-hire certification with the state of Washington.

B. Additionally, all licensees shall maintain a policy of underinsured motorist coverage which runs to the benefit of passengers. The City of Seattle need not be named as an additional insured, but, in any event, will be listed as a certificate holder on the policy. Proof of compliance will be a certificate of insurance indicating a minimum coverage of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per person and Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per accident. The City of Seattle will be notified at least ten (10) days in advance of a lapse of coverage.

C. Licensees may meet the above requirements for financial responsibility through a program of self-insurance pursuant to RCW 46.29.630.

D. If an insurance policy is cancelled, proof of a new policy must be filed with the City prior to the date of cancellation. If the City does not receive a new certificate of insurance prior to the date of cancellation, the taxicab license must be surrendered to the Director until such time that a new certificate of insurance is filed.

(Ord. 111906 § 5, 1984; Ord. 109673 § 1, 1981; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.170, 1980.)

#### **6.212.090 Failure to pay judgment.**

Failure to pay any judgment arising out of the taxicab business within thirty (30) days after the

judgment becomes final or to make any payment pursuant to such judgment shall result in denial, suspension, or revocation of a taxicab license. No taxicab license shall be renewed if payments on an outstanding final judgment are delinquent.

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(Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980: Ord. 108934 § 6.180, 1980.)

**6.212.100 Rates—Filing.**

Each owner of an independent taxicab or each association representative shall present proof of authority to file rates, color scheme, trade name, or other identification scheme on behalf of a taxi business, in a form satisfactory to the Director, and shall file all rates and charges with the Director in a form as required by the Director. The original rates filed shall become effective on the effective date of the license.

(Ord. 115495 § 15, 1991: Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980: Ord. 108934 § 6.200, 1980.)

**6.212.110 Rates—Changing.**

Rates may be changed by filing a new rate schedule with the Director not more than two (2) times during the license year and not sooner than three (3) months after the most recent previous rate change. If the rate change does not necessitate a meter adjustment, the new rate becomes effective for each affected taxicab when the cab meter is approved; provided, that no taxicab affected by the rate filing shall operate after thirty (30) days following the filing of the new rate schedule unless its meter has been adjusted and approved by the Director. The Director may waive this limitation for good cause.

(Ord. 111906 § 6, 1984: Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980: Ord. 108934 § 6.210, 1980.)

**6.212.115 Rate ceiling.**

No rate may exceed a ceiling rate of ten percent (10%) above the average of rates filed with the City on January 1st of each year. The average rate for the filed drop and for the per mile charge will be calculated by multiplying the filed drop or mileage charge, respectively, by the number of vehicles in each taxicab company and taking a cumulative sum for each which is then divided by the number of taxis licensed by the City. The average rate and ceiling rate will be rounded off to the nearest Ten Cents (\$0.10). If the Director determines that any rate has been filed for the purpose of exaggerating the average rate so as not to reflect the market condition, such rate may be disregarded in the foregoing calculation. In no event shall the rate ceiling exceed One Dollar Eighty Cents (\$1.80) drop and One Dollar Eighty Cents (\$1.80) per mile rate.

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(Ord. 116832 § 1, 1993: Ord. 111906 § 7, 1984.)

Cases: This section does not unconstitutionally conflict with state law. *Seattle Taxi, Inc. v. King County*, 49 Wn.App. 617, 744 P.2d 1082 (1987).

**6.212.116 Discount rates.**

All discounts on fares must be filed with the Director, be expressed as a percentage discount of the filed rate, and set forth the conditions that must be met to qualify for the discount.

(Ord. 111906 § 8, 1984.)

**6.212.117 Extra charges prohibited for carrying baggage.**

No charge may be made for carrying the baggage of any passenger. Extra charges may be allowed for carrying extra passengers. Extra charges must be filed with and approved by the Director as part of the taxicab rates.

(Ord. 115142 § 1, 1990: Ord. 111906 § 9, 1984.)

**6.212.118 Surcharges.**

Any charge for special services must be filed with and approved by the Director as part of the taxicab rates and is applicable only when the passenger has specifically requested the special service.

(Ord. 111906 § 10, 1984.)

**6.212.119 Limitation on wait time charges.**

The charge for waiting time on a taximeter shall not be utilized when the taxicab is traveling in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour. The wait time per minute may not exceed twenty-five per cent (25%) of the rate charged per mile.

(Ord. 111906 § 11, 1984.)

**6.212.120 Posting rates and displaying identifying information.**

A. Each taxicab shall display on the interior and exterior of the taxicab, the filed rates of fare. Fares shall be displayed in the manner and form required by the Director by rule, according to a uniform system which can be readily understood by passengers, including the listing of drop, mileage, waiting time, surcharges, and discounts; provided that any taxicab licensee doing business by reservation only, and who does not offer taxicab service except by prior reservation, is not required to comply with this subsection.



**Seattle Municipal Code  
March, 1995 code update file  
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6-70.75

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B. Each taxicab, within its passenger compartment, shall display a consumer information board in the manner and form required by the Director by rule. The board shall contain taxicab identification by business name and number; the driver's name and for-hire driver's license number; the taxi hot-line number; and other information or material required by the Director.

(Ord. 115495 § 16, 1991; Ord. 111906 § 12, 1984; Ord. 109673 § 2, 1981; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.220, 1980.)

**6.212.130 Receipt provided upon request.**

Each taxicab driver shall provide a customer with a receipt when requested. The receipt shall include complete and accurate information in legible form as follows:

A. Name of the licensee and the Seattle taxicab license number;

B. Signature of the driver and the for-hire driver's license number;

C. Date, time, and place of trip origin and dismissal; and

D. Itemized listing of charges and total fare paid or charged.

(Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.230, 1980.)

**6.212.140 Contract rates.**

Rates may be charged pursuant to a written contract which may establish a fare for specific transportation at a different rate than the filed rate. (Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.240, 1980.)

**6.212.145 Shared-ride service.**

A. Shared-ride service may be offered on a reservation basis to passengers requesting the service.

B. Charges for each shared-ride trip shall be calculated by multiplying a licensee's filed shared-ride rate by standard values assigned for travel between zones. The values shall be fixed by the Director by rule.

C. Charges for shared-ride service shall be based on a standard zone map approved by ordinance; provided, that the Director may amend the zone map by rule at any time after this subsection has been effective for nine (9) months, and provided further, that for any amendment the Director shall consider, among other relevant factors, the following:

1. Fairness to taxicab companies and the public;

2. Ability of the public to understand the charges and the zone map;

3. Ease of City administration and enforcement; and

4. Innovations in shared-ride service programs.

D. Charges for shared-ride service shall be based on the following standard zone map:<sup>1</sup>

E. Each licensee or agent offering shared-ride services shall, at all times, carry copies of the standard zone map, and shall give a copy to passengers on request.

F. Nine (9) months from the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section, the Director shall recommend to the City Council whether to continue, modify, or repeal this section which authorizes shared-ride service.

(Ord. 109635 § 4, 1981; Ord. 108934 § 6.245, 1980.)

1. Editor's Note: The standard zone map accompanying Ord. 109635 is available in the City Clerk's office.

**6.212.150 Notice to passengers.**

Each licensee or agent shall display at all times, a notice in the taxicab interior which is readily visible to and readable by passengers as follows:

"The driver of this taxicab is required by Seattle ordinance to give a receipt for service provided to any customer who requests a receipt. Any complaint about taxicab service or charges may be directed to the Seattle Finance Department, (mailing address), (telephone number)."

(Ord. 117169 § 100, 1994; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.250, 1980.)

**6.212.160 Equipment.**

A. Each taxicab shall be equipped with a taximeter installed in the vehicle in such a position that the face upon which the fare or charge is indicated is readily visible to and readable by passengers. Taximeters shall compute, record and display only a single tariff or rate of fare. The use of multiple rate meters is prohibited.

B. At a minimum, each taxicab shall be equipped with either a top light, a flag attached to the taximeter, or other equipment approved by the Finance Director which indicates that the taxicab is employed or unemployed and is visible from a distance of ten feet (10) from the vehicle.

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C. Cabulances may be exempted from all or part of the requirements of this section if deemed necessary by the Director.

D. All taxicabs shall be equipped with a taximeter capable of storing the information contemplated by Section 6.212.210.

E. The Director may promulgate rules governing the collection and/or reporting of data stored on taximeters and/or taximeter tapes to the Finance Department.

(Ord. 117169 § 101, 1994; Ord. 115495 § 17, 1991; Ord. 113613 § 6, 1987; Ord. 111906 § 13, 1984; Ord. 109635 § 3, 1981; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.300, 1980.)

**6.212.170 Packages.**

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit or limit the right of licensees to use taxicabs for transporting packages for-hire without a passenger.

(Ord. 111906 § 14, 1984; Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.310, 1980.)

**6.212.180 Violation of county or Port of Seattle regulation.**

A taxicab license may be denied, suspended, or revoked upon finding that the applicant or licensee, or owner, officer, or agent thereof has violated, or has caused or permitted a driver to violate, any King County or Port of Seattle ordinance or regulation pertaining to the operation of taxicabs while in those jurisdictions, if such violation would constitute grounds for license suspension, revocation, or denial if occurring within the City.

(Ord. 109348 § 2(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 6.400, 1980.)

**6.212.190 Impoundment of taxicabs.**

Taxicabs found unattended at taxistands, or operating without a valid taxicab license may be impounded.

(Ord. 111906 § 15, 1984.)

**6.212.200 Zone fare.**

The taxi trips between the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and the downtown hotel district represent a special condition where the passengers are predominantly visitors, who are not generally aware of the varying taxi fare structure. In order to provide a clear rate structure for the visitor, all taxicab licensees shall charge a standardized fare for all trips which travel directly

between the airport and downtown zone. The standard fare shall be the average of all rates filed by January 1st multiplied by fifteen (15) miles, added to the average drop rate, and rounded to the nearest dollar. This fare shall be recalculated annually to reflect market changes.

(Ord. 111906 § 16, 1984.)

**6.212.210 Trip sheets required.**

A. It is unlawful for any person owning or operating any taxicab to fail to keep an accurate daily record on a trip sheet, the form and size to be approved by the Director. All daily trip sheets shall be kept on file for a period of one (1) year at the address for which the vehicle license is issued. All daily trip sheets shall be open for inspection by the Director either while carried in the vehicle for hire or at the address of the licensee. The following information shall be contained on each trip sheet:

1. The driver's name as licensed;
2. The driver's residence address and phone number;
3. The driver's for-hire driver license number;
4. The company name and vehicle number;
5. The date, time and place of origin and dismissal of each trip (including trips where the passenger did not complete an actual trip);
6. The fare charged or to be collected;
7. The number of passengers paying and any other items for which a charge was made;
8. Any discounts given on each trip;
9. The beginning and ending odometer reading for the vehicle for each shift worked;

10. The beginning and ending time for each shift worked; and

11. If the trip is made pursuant to a contract, as allowed by this chapter, the trip sheet shall show the fare charged and the identification of the contract under which the transportation was provided.

(Ord. 111906 § 17, 1984.)

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**6.212.220 Cooperative agreement authorized.**

Pursuant to RCW 81.72.220 (Section 3 of Chapter 127, Laws of Washington 1984), the Mayor is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with any other city, town, county or port district for the joint regulation of taxicabs in a manner consistent with the provisions of this chapter. Cooperative agreements may provide for, but are not limited to the granting, revocation, and suspension of taxicab licenses, and the sharing of enforcement responsibilities.

(Ord. 115495 § 18, 1991; Ord. 111906 § 18, 1984.)

**6.212.250 Two (2) way communications equipment.**

Taxicabs shall be equipped with two (2) way communication equipment affiliated with a central dispatching system or with an operational citizens' band ("CB") radio, car telephone, or other telecommunications device, and have an arrangement for calling for prompt assistance in the event of a breakdown en route.

(Ord. 113613 § 5, 1987.)

**6.212.260 Information for rate regulation.**

A. 1. Financial Disclosure. In addition to his/her powers under Sections 6.02.040 B and 6.202.360 B, for the purpose of providing information for regulation the Director may require that licensees and/or taxicab associations provide to the Department for each taxicab with a license in the City:

- a. Total number of trips;
- b. Total paid miles;
- c. Total miles driven;
- d. Amount of fares collected and number of fare units;
- e. Costs, including, but not limited to:

to:

- (1) Equipment depreciation,
- (2) Equipment purchases,
- (3) Repair and maintenance costs,
- (4) Fuel and oil costs,
- (5) Other supplies,
- (6) Leases and service contract costs,
- (7) License fees and taxes,
- (8) Insurance,
- (9) Labor costs,
- (10) Other relevant costs.

2. This information must be provided annually to the Director on or before January 30 for the previous calendar year.

B. Sanction. Failure of an owner to report as required shall result in immediate suspension of his or her license until such time as the information is provided or at the Director's discretion to an administrative assessment under Section 6.212.290.

C. Collection of Information. Information stored on meters as required by Section 6.212.160 shall be collected at official County or City taxicab testing stations. Other information required to be reported under this section shall be reported in a manner established by the Director.

D. Verification. The Director may verify operating cost information reported by the taxicab industry through special audits performed on a random-sample basis. Failure to submit information required by this section for a special audit within two (2) weeks of the Director's request shall result in an immediate license suspension until such time as the information is provided.

Any costs reported but not verified during an audit will not be used to determine average operating costs for rate-setting or licensing purposes.

E. Research. The Director is further authorized to examine business and occupation tax returns filed by taxicab licensees for the purpose of generating statistical information about the industry. The statistical information shall not identify any particular licensee.

(Ord. 115495 § 19, 1991; Ord. 113613 § 4, 1987.)

**6.212.270 Training course.**

A. Every taxicab licensee shall make sure that each driver of his/her cab has within the last two (2) years completed an approved training course, offered or certified by the Director, covering the following subjects:

- 1. Defensive driving; the appropriate use of battery-starter cables; and other matters affecting automobile safety;
- 2. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid;
- 3. The geography of Seattle-King County area; locations of hospitals, landmarks and tourist sites; local history and traffic flow patterns;
- 4. Driver/passenger relations, personal appearance, and communication skills; and

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5. The provisions of SMC Chapter 6.212 and taxicab rates in effect.

B. The Director is authorized to offer a training course for taxicab drivers and to charge a fee to those attending a training course offered by the City in order to defray its cost and to charge a fee for rescheduling attendance at the course. If the City does not offer such a course and no approved course is provided by another, the Director shall waive this requirement. (Ord. 115495 § 20, 1991; Ord. 113613 § 7, 1987.)

6.212.280 Restitution—Complaint resolution.

To assist in enforcing this ordinance, discourage improper practices, and to resolve complaints without the expense of lawsuits, the Director may order a taxicab driver and/or the holder of a taxicab license to pay to an identified individual who has made a written complaint:

A. The amount a fare or charge exceeds the correct fare authorized by this ordinance;

B. The cost paid by a prospective customer for alternate transportation to his or her destination within King County whenever the taxicab operator has wrongfully refused to transport the customer, or has wrongfully transported a passenger to a location other than his or her destination;

C. The value of any luggage or packages belonging to a customer or passenger that the taxicab operator has wrongfully withheld; and

D. An amount up to Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to compensate for discomfort, inconvenience, and expense of the customer or passenger proximately resulting from the incident.

By accepting payment of the amount ordered, a complainant releases the taxicab driver and/or holder of the taxicab license from the complainant's civil claims for the overcharge, improper service, or withheld property. (Ord. 115495 § 21(part), 1991.)

6.212.290 Administrative assessments.

A. Schedule. To assist in securing compliance, the Director may require a taxicab driver and/or the holder of a taxicab license to pay to the City an administrative assessment for a violation of the provisions of this ordinance or of an administrative rule up to the amounts in the following schedule (section references in parenthesis are illustrative and not inclusive):

- 1. Defective equipment other than taximeters (Sections 6.212.055,

6.212.060, 6.212.070 B, C, D, and T) (See subsection B below)

.....\$ 70.00

2. Driver conduct standards (Section 6.208.150 other than refusal to transport; 6.212.070 G, M, P, or V)

.....50.00

3. Impaired driving ability (Sections 6.208.160 D; 6.212.070 Q, R)

.....100.00

4. Improper fares and charges (Section 6.212.100, 6.212.116, 6.212.118, 6.212.119 and 6.212.140; 6.212.070 E, J, K, N)

.....50.00

5. Making false or misleading statements (Section 6.212.070 A)

.....100.00

6. Misuse of taxicab zones (Section 6.208.160; 6.212.070 L, O)

.....25.00

7. Receipts, failing to supply on request (Section 6.212.130)

.....15.00

8. Regulations implementing ordinance (Section 6.212.055)

.....50.00

9. Reporting and financial data (Sections 6.02.270 and 6.212.260)

.....50.00

10. Taxicab appearance and identification (Sections 6.212.050; 6.212.070 F; 6.212.120; 6.212.150)

.....25.00

11. Taximeters (Sections 6.212.060; 6.212.160)

.....100.00

12. Tripsheets (Section 6.212.210)

.....25.00

13. Wrongful refusal to serve (Sections 6.208.150 F and 6.208.160; 6.212.070 H, U)

.....50.00

B. Adjustments.

1. With respect to equipment standards and vehicle requirements, each day that the taxicab is in operation is a separate infraction. With conduct, each incident is a separate infraction.

2. The Director may commute a notice of assessment to a warning when it is the first notice for such an incident to the recipient and reflects excusable neglect or extenuating circumstances. The schedule contemplates the exercise of discretion in fixing assessments.

3. Administrative assessments are not to be imposed for defective equipment discovered during the annual inspection of a taxicab if the defect is repaired before the taxicab is placed into service. An administrative assessment for defective equipment required by RCW Chapter

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46.37 shall be consistent with the bail schedule in the Traffic Infraction Rules of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, JTIR Rule 6.2. The Director may waive an administrative assessment with respect to defective equipment if the licensee supplies proof of repair within forty-eight (48) hours and the defect was not the subject of a previous notice to repair within one (1) year.

4. With respect to annual reports required by Section 6.212.260, the Director may waive the administrative assessment for a late filing if payment occurs before the City mails a reminder notice.

C. Surrender of License. As an alternate to payment of the administrative assessment, a licensee may surrender his or her license. If an administrative assessment is not paid within thirty (30) days after the order becomes final, the Director shall revoke the license and, such revocation shall be regarded as an alternate remedy for the administrative assessments. (Ord. 115495 § 21(part), 1991.)

#### **6.212.310 Procedures applicable to restitution and administrative assessments.**

In the proceedings leading to an administrative order for restitution or to impose an administrative assessment, the licensee(s) from whom payment will be sought have the right to: a written statement of the grievance or infraction; an identification of the ordinance or rule violated; the documents to be considered, the witnesses appearing, and a statement of the amount involved; at least two (2) business days to prepare a response; the opportunity to make an oral presentation to the Director or assistant director assigned to hear and decide the matter; a prompt hearing; a written determination; and if the amount at issue exceeds Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), a right to appeal to the hearing examiner under Section 3.02.090. The Director's hearings shall be informal.

Should the Director be a witness to the incident or otherwise disqualified, the Director may designate a counterpart official of King County to act in his or her stead or the Mayor may appoint a substitute. (Ord. 115495 § 21(part), 1991.)

### **Chapter 6.214 TOWING OPERATOR AND TOW TRUCK LICENSES**

#### **Sections:**

- 6.214.010 Definitions.**
- 6.214.020 License—Expiration date.**
- 6.214.030 License—Operator—Required.**
- 6.214.040 License—Tow truck—Required.**
- 6.214.050 Incorporation of state law and Washington Administrative Code provisions.**
- 6.214.060 Unlawful acts.**
- 6.214.070 Financial responsibility.**
- 6.214.080 Failure to satisfy judgment.**
- 6.214.090 License plates.**
- 6.214.100 Marking towing service vehicles.**
- 6.214.110 Rates—Filing.**
- 6.214.120 Rates—Posting.**
- 6.214.130 Rates—Quoting orally.**
- 6.214.140 Rates—Publishing.**
- 6.214.150 Rates—Changing.**
- 6.214.160 Direct route.**
- 6.214.170 Removing vehicles from private property—Releasing such vehicles—Selling impounded vehicles.**
- 6.214.180 Receipt required—Records to be kept.**

#### **6.214.010 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this chapter:

A. "Impound" means removal of a vehicle to a storage facility by request of any person except the vehicle's registered owner, or authorized agent.

B. "Operator" means any person engaged in the business of offering or providing a towing service except "operator" shall not include a vehicle reposessor working exclusively on contract for the owner of the legal title to a vehicle.

C. "Towing service" means use of a vehicle by which other vehicles including, but not limited to, abandoned, disabled, inoperable, or improperly parked vehicles are towed or impounded.

D. "Tow truck" means a vehicle used to render towing service except "tow truck" shall not include a vehicle used by a vehicle reposessor

working on contract for the owner of the legal title to a vehicle.

E. "Vehicle" means every device capable of being moved upon a street and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a street.

(Ord. 110373 § 1, 1982; Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.020, 1980.)

**6.214.020 License—Expiration date.**

Towing operator licenses and tow truck licenses expire annually on August 31st.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.024, 1980.)

**6.214.030 License—Operator—Required.**

It is unlawful for any person to engage in the towing service business without first obtaining a towing operator license in accordance with the provisions of the new license code.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.030, 1980.)

**6.214.040 License—Tow truck—Required.**

It is unlawful for any person to operate a tow truck without first obtaining a tow truck license in accordance with the provisions of the new license code.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.035, 1980.)

**6.214.050 Incorporation of state law and Washington Administrative Code provisions.**

Whenever state law or Washington Administrative Code provisions are incorporated by reference into this chapter, the effect is to govern all operators licensed by the City, whether or not state law or regulations by their terms govern all operators.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.100, 1980.)

**6.214.060 Unlawful acts.**

It is unlawful for any operator, or his/her agent to:

A. Demand or collect for towing service in excess of the rates filed;



B. Fail to provide a receipt with all charges itemized;

C. Fail to release a vehicle to its rightful owner if the appropriate charge to which the person is entitled has been tendered in a form acceptable under RCW Chapter 46.52 and regulations promulgated thereunder, and the person making such tender promises to remove or promptly secure removal of the towed vehicle;

D. Remove a vehicle from any location unless:

1. Requested to so remove by a police officer or appropriate governmental official acting in his/her official capacity, or

2. The vehicle's registered owner, or the owner's authorized agent, engages the operator's service, or

3. A written contractual agreement exists between the operator and the real property owner, or rightful occupier of real property, and provides for tow services to remove vehicles from the real property, or

4. The operator has a signed authorization from the rightful occupier of real property for each such vehicle removed in accordance with RCW 46.52.118, 46.52.119, and 46.52.119 (2) and with WAC 308-62-020;

E. Charge any fee or other remuneration for attempting to tow a vehicle unless:

1. The licensee has gained custody of a vehicle to be towed by hooking it to the tow truck and raising the vehicle's wheels off the ground, in which event no more than fifty percent (50%) of the impound fee, plus charges for other service actually performed may be charged, or

2. The licensee has completed the process of preparing the vehicle for towing, and the licensee has begun to operate the tow truck with the vehicle in tow, in which event the total amount of the impound fee and other allowable charges may be charged;

F. Block or otherwise interfere with the removal of a vehicle by a person properly claiming such vehicle;

G. Go to the site of a vehicle accident for purposes of soliciting or procuring towing service business unless called by the owner of a vehicle, the rightful occupier of property from which a vehicle is to be removed, or a police officer. (Ord. 109622 § 1, 1981; Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.140, 1980.)

#### **6.214.070Financial responsibility.**

Each tow truck operator shall submit to the Director for filing by the City Clerk, a copy of public liability insurance in the minimum amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for any one (1) person killed or injured in any one (1) accident or occurrence and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) for more than one (1) person killed or injured in any one (1) accident or occurrence, and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) of garage keeper legal liability insurance.

(Ord. 117242 § 11, 1994; Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.170, 1980.)

#### **6.214.080Failure to satisfy judgment.**

If a licensee fails to satisfy a judgment arising out of the tow truck business prior to license renewal, the license may be denied, unless a stay of denial is procured during the pendency of a court appeal.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.180, 1980.)

#### **6.214.090License plates.**

For each tow truck, the Director shall issue to an operator tow truck license plates, to be at all times prominently displayed as required by the Director.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.210, 1980.)

#### **6.214.100Marking towing service vehicles.**

Every tow truck shall be marked in compliance with WAC 308-61-110(7).

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.215, 1980.)

#### **6.214.110Rates—Filing.**

The rates for towing or storing vehicles charged by an operator shall be filed with the Director on a form as prescribed by the Director.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.220, 1980.)

#### **6.214.120Rates—Posting.**

Rates shall be posted, conspicuously, exactly as filed, at all locations of the towing business from which towed vehicles are released. The sign shall be of sufficient contrast in color to be clearly readable, and be in such form, location, and size as required by the Director.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.225, 1980.)

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**6.214.130 Rates—Quoting orally.**

Rates shall be orally quoted by the operator, or his agent to any member of the public upon request. The operator shall disclose both towing and storage fees.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.230, 1980.)

**6.214.140 Rates—Publishing.**

A schedule of tow rates will be maintained on file by the Department and furnished to any person on request.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.231, 1980.)

**6.214.150 Rates—Changing.**

An operator may file new rates at any time. New rates shall become effective fifteen (15) days after filing.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.235, 1980.)

**6.214.160 Direct route.**

Any operator, or his/her agent, when engaged in towing a vehicle to a definite location, shall take the most direct route possible consistent with public safety.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.250, 1980.)

**6.214.170 Removing vehicles from private property—Releasing such vehicles—Selling impounded vehicles.**

Any towing operator or agent removing a vehicle from private property, releasing such vehicle, or selling any abandoned vehicle shall comply with the requirements of RCW Chapter 46.52 and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.260, 1980.)

**6.214.180 Receipt required—Records to be kept.**

The operator, or his/her agent, shall prepare a receipt for all services charged for in duplicate, using sequentially numbered forms for every towing service provided within or from the City. The receipt will contain the following:

A. Name, address, telephone number, and place of business of the operator;

B. Washington State license number or fleet number of the towing service vehicle used in providing the service;

C. Name and address of every person engaging the operator's service;

D. License number, year, make, model and color of the vehicle towed;

E. Name and address of the vehicle's registered owner, if known;

F. Date, time and place service commenced, and terminated;

G. Specific service(s) rendered;

H. Total amount to be charged for all services including storage;

I. The signature of the operator, driver, agent or employee providing the service;

J. The signature of the person to whom the towing service was provided or to whom the vehicle was released or delivered, unless refused.

The operator, or his/her agent, shall deliver a copy of the receipt to the person redeeming the vehicle from the operator's custody, and shall keep one (1) copy, filed serially in order of the receipt number. Such filed receipts shall be retained for a period of one (1) year at the operator's place of business.

(Ord. 109080 § 1(part), 1980; Ord. 108934 § 7.270, 1980.)

**Chapter 6.222  
RENTAL HOUSING AGENCIES**

**Sections:**

**6.222.010 Definitions.**

**6.222.020 License—Expiration date.**

**6.222.030 License—Required.**

**6.222.040 Unlawful acts.**

**6.222.050 Financial responsibility.**

**6.222.060 Records and reports.**

**6.222.010 Definitions.**

For the purposes of this chapter:

A. "Customer" means any prospective tenant contracting with a rental agency for the performance of such agency's services.

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B. "Department" means the Finance Department of the City.

C. "Director" means the Finance Director of the City or any authorized representative of the Director.

D. "Housing accommodation" or "accommodations" includes any dwelling or dwelling unit, rooming unit, rooming house, lot or parcel of land which is used, intended to be used, or arranged or designed to be used as, or improved with, a residential structure for one (1) or more human beings.

E. "Landlord" means the owner of a housing accommodation or other persons authorized or empowered to rent such housing accommodation to others.

F. "Rental agency" means any individual, partnership, firm, corporation, company, society, association, or other group or organization whether organized for profit or nonprofit, who for compensation from the prospective tenant, collects, offers, and/or distributes information as to housing accommodations, without substantially participating as an intermediary in negotiation of rents, terms, conditions, or other provisions of individual leases or rental agreements or entering into rental agreements on behalf of or representing the prospective tenant.

(Ord. 117169 § 102, 1994; Ord. 109763 § 2(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 11.020, 1980.)

#### **6.222.020 License—Expiration date.**

Rental agency licenses issued under this chapter shall expire and may be renewed annually on the last day of February.

(Ord. 109763 § 2(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 11.024, 1980.)

#### **6.222.030 License—Required.**

It is unlawful for any person within the City to engage in the business of a rental agency, solicit business for a rental agency, or advertise the services of a rental agency doing business in Seattle without first obtaining a rental agency license issued in accordance with the provisions of this code.

(Ord. 109763 § 2(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 11.030, 1980.)

#### **6.222.040 Unlawful acts.**

It is unlawful for any rental agency or any agent thereof to:

A. List or advertise any housing accommodation or otherwise offer or provide information about any housing accommodation without the prior written consent of the landlord; or

B. Refer any customer to or list any housing accommodation which is and has been unavailable for rental for the three (3) days immediately preceding the date of the referral; or

C. Use any contract or furnish any receipt to any customer or prospective customer which does not disclose in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Director all material information regarding the services to be provided by the rental agency to said customer; or

D. Require any customer to pay a fee or charge prior to such customer entering into a rental agreement or lease for a housing accommodation obtained from the rental agency; or

E. Publish or cause to be published any advertisement for a particular housing accommodation without including in the advertisement a page, line, or other code number through which the particular housing accommodation can be easily located in the rental agency's listing records. (Ord. 109763 § 2(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 11.140, 1980.)

#### **6.222.050 Financial responsibility.**

Each applicant for a rental agency license shall submit to the Director for filing with the City Clerk a surety bond of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) naming himself or herself and all his or her agents as principals, and conditioned as provided by the general provisions of Chapter 6.202.

(Ord. 116386 § 194, 1992; Ord. 109763 § 2(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 11.150, 1980.)

#### **6.222.060 Records and reports.**

Every rental agency licensee shall keep and make available to customers an accurate listing of all housing accommodations to which customers are or may be referred, which shall include at least the following information for each housing accommodation:

A. The type of unit (e.g., duplex, triplex, fourplex, or multiplex);

B. Whether the unit is furnished or unfurnished;

C. The date when the unit will be available;

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D. The date when the housing accommodation was most recently entered on the agency's listing records;

E. The date when the housing accommodation was last verified by the agency to be available for rent;

F. The address of the housing accommodation;

G. The name, address and telephone number of the landlord;

H. The monthly rent required by the landlord;

I. The amount and purpose of any damage, cleaning, rent or other deposit or prepayment required by the landlord;

J. The number and types of rooms;

K. Whether a written lease is required and, if so, the minimum term required by the landlord;

L. Any restrictions as to pets, furnishings, or number of occupants permitted by the Seattle Municipal Code, Title 14, Chapter 8, or activities imposed by the landlord.

(Ord. 109673 § 2(part), 1981; Ord. 108934 § 11.200, 1980.)

**Chapter 6.230  
STEAM ENGINEERS AND  
BOILER FIREMEN**

**Sections:**

**6.230.010Scope.**

**6.230.020Application of other provisions.**

**6.230.030Definitions.**

**6.230.040License required—Expiration.**

**6.230.050Exemptions from license requirements.**

**6.230.060Grades of licenses.**

**6.230.070Issuance of licenses.**

**6.230.080Special license.**

**6.230.090Examination fees for licenses.**

**6.230.100Departmental authority.**

**6.230.110Licenses to be posted or carried.**

**6.230.120Notice of place of employment.**

**6.230.130Reporting of defective boilers.**

**6.230.140Duties of steam engineers and boiler firemen.**

**6.230.150Duties of boiler supervisor.**

**6.230.160Observation and inspection of boilers.**

**6.230.170Steam License Advisory Board.**

**6.230.180Enforcement—Filing of charges.**

**6.230.190Posting of regulations.**

**6.230.210Unlawful interference with licensee.**

**6.230.010Scope.**

The regulation and licensing of steam engineers and boiler firemen in this chapter and the regulations relating to the operation of boilers and steam engines as defined in this chapter provide the means for ensuring safe operation of such boilers and steam engines.

(Ord. 111301 § 3(part), 1983.)

**6.230.020Application of other provisions.**

The licenses, endorsements and certificates provided for in this chapter are subject to the general provisions of the new Seattle license code set forth in Chapter 6.202 as now or hereafter amended. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of Chapter 6.202 and this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall control.

(Ord. 111301 § 3(part), 1983.)

**6.230.030Definitions.**

Words and phrases used in this chapter relating to the regulation and licensing of steam engineers and boiler firemen shall have the following meanings:

1. "Automatic boiler" means a boiler equipped with certain controls and limit devices as required by the Mechanical Code as amended.<sup>1</sup>

2. "Boiler" means a closed vessel used for heating water or other liquid or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat from combustible fuels or electricity.

3. "Boiler plant" means one (1) or more boilers and connecting piping and vessels within the same premises.

4. "Boiler supervisor" means a steam engineer Grade I, II or III whose license has been endorsed "boiler supervisor" pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or a professional engineer licensed by the state who has a "boiler supervisor" certificate issued under this chapter.

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