

LCB File No. R114-03

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE TAXICAB AUTHORITY

Under NRS 706.151, the Taxicab Authority is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the availability of safe transportation. Under NRS 706.8818, the Authority is authorized to adopt regulations to further that purpose.

NAC 706.492 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 706.492 Taxicabs: Mechanical standards and special equipment. (NRS 706.8818) A certificate holder shall not permit a taxicab to be operated in passenger service unless the taxicab meets all of the following standards in addition to those prescribed by NRS 706.8837:

1. The front suspension system is in good repair and proper working order.
2. The engine, transmission and drive train, including mounts, are in good repair and proper working order and, during normal operation, do not die, miss, backfire or show noticeable loss of power.
3. The engine, transmission, drive train or accessories must not emit loud noises so as to be disturbing to the passengers or distracting to the driver.
4. The taxicab is equipped with an air filter or adequate flame arrester covering the air intake of the carburetor.
5. The taxicab does not pull to the left or right or tend to drift under normal driving conditions.
6. The engine, transmission, radiator or accessories do not allow a noticeable quantity of fluid to leak.
7. The engine does not emit excessive smoke from either the exhaust or crankcase.
8. All windows are operable, free of obstruction and the driver's view is not impaired in any direction.
9. The brake lining is of sufficient thickness to prevent the metal portion of the brake shoe or pad from coming in contact with the brake drum or disc. Under normal braking conditions, the taxicab does not pull to the left or right or unusual locking of wheels does not occur.
10. Heating and air-conditioning systems are mandatory equipment on all taxicabs operating in this state and are required to provide reasonable comfort to passengers at their request and must conform to reasonable standards of efficiency.
11. The taxicab must be equipped with:
 - (a) A mirror on the outside of the front door on the passenger's side;
 - (b) Operable trunk lid supports or a trunk rod or bar, one end of which is permanently affixed to the vehicle;
 - (c) Straps to tie down the trunk;
 - (d) Windows that have not been tinted more than the manufacturer's specifications for the vehicle;
 - (e) Seat belts that are maintained in a clean and operable condition at all times;
 - (f) Automatic locks which control all doors and which are operable at the driver's door; and
 - (g) A trunk release which is operable from inside the trunk.

(h) No later than March 1, 2004, an in-car camera that is of a make and model approved by the Board. Installation of the camera must be done by an installer approved by the Board.

Chapter 706 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

In determining whether to approve an in-car camera and its installation as required by NAC 706.492(11)(h), the Board must consider the following:

1. Operational specifications:

(a) The system shall not interfere with any other system on board the taxicab and shall itself not be affected in any way by any sources of interference likely encountered on the taxicab.

(b) The system shall preserve images in the event of loss of power.

(c) The system shall have a visual LED indicator showing when the recorder is operational and when there is a malfunction.

(d) Components shall be resistant to vandalism and/or degradation of the recorded image by intentional or accidental damage to the recording unit.

2. Camera Head:

(a) The camera and all system components shall be installed in a manner that does not interfere with the driver's vision or view of mirrors or otherwise normal operation for the vehicle.

(b) The camera must be equipped with an infra-red lighting source and operate automatically and in conjunction with image capture for day and night use.

(c) The lens of the camera must be of a type that captures the driver and all passengers in the vehicle on the recorded image.

(d) The camera housing shall not have sharp edges and shall be positioned such that passengers or drivers of any height cannot come in contact with the housing during normal operations.

3. Storage Device/Recorder:

(a) The image storage unit shall be concealed from view and effectively inaccessible except by authorized personnel.

(b) Stored images shall be secured in a way to prevent unauthorized access.

(c) The manufacturer of each camera system to be used must agree to provide viewing access and viewing access equipment only to law enforcement.

(d) The recording unit must be capable of recording and storing a minimum of 4800 images and each image shall comprise of an image resolution not less than 300 TVL (Television Lines).

(e) All stored images must be time and date stamped including a vehicle identification number.

(f) Images are to be stored on a removable compact flash memory card.

(g) Each recorded image must be automatically stamped with a unique and non-modifiable code that identifies the controller used to record the image.

(h) Provisions must be made by all approved manufacturers to provide a means of downloading images from storage device using a laptop or desktop computer.

(i) The system shall have no microphone or audio recording capabilities.

4. Public Notices:

(a) Decals must be placed on the right and left rear passenger door windows of the vehicle to advise passengers that a digital camera system is in operation. The decals must be placed in either the top one-third of the window, so that it is still visible when the rear window goes two-thirds of the way down or in the space that is provided in some vehicles directly behind the passenger's window. This is a fixed window that cannot be lowered. The decal shall be placed in the lowest point of the fixed window, so the passenger has an opportunity to see the sticker before entering the vehicle. The decals must be printed with a double-sided message for interior and exterior viewing.

(b) The decals must read "VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH SECURITY CAMERA AND ALL OCCUPANTS WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED.", or a similar message to be approved by the Board.

5. Door/Meter Activation:

(a) The recorder must activate when any door on the taxicab is opened and upon meter activation, with a minimum of one image being recorded every three seconds within the first 60 seconds of the door opening. The recorder shall capture additional images recording at a rate of one image for each 200 second interval for 20 minutes. The recorder must reset if any door is opened before the completion of any cycle or upon the completion of any 20 minute cycle.

(b) The driver shall have no control of the imaging system, except for an emergency activation switch, which the driver can manually operate.

(c) In the event the driver activates the emergency switch the system must begin recording an image at the rate of one per second for a period of five minutes. The images so recorded must be stored on a separate, secure card that is not subject to being rerecorded.

6. Installation of Systems:

(a) Security cameras must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and procedures.

(b) Must include a full test of the operation of the system, including alignment of the camera and verification of functionality under low light conditions.

(c) Must include a connection that is concealed, but readily accessible for routine testing of the camera by a Taxicab Authority Inspector. The connection point must only be used for testing purposes.

(d) An installation form must be completed and provided to each certificate holder and the Authority. The form, to be developed and approved by the Administrator, must include the VIN number, identification number, camera serial number and date installed.

(e) Training must be provided to all drivers of taxicabs on the operation of the camera system.

(f) All images downloaded or printed during installation must be destroyed. Installers and certificate holders may keep one copy from the test process as evidence that the camera was in proper operating condition following installation, testing or service.

7. Maintenance:

(a) When a camera system requires servicing or maintenance, certificate holders must make arrangements to restore the system to functionality as soon as possible.

(b) No taxicab shall be operated unless the camera is fully functional.

8. Transfer of system:

(a) When a camera system is transferred between vehicles the same procedure as listed in section six shall apply with the addition of a notation that the system was transferred and a listing of the vehicle that the system was transferred from.

9. Image Retrieval

(a) Each approved system provider shall make available the equipment and software necessary for image retrieval.

(b) Each approved system provider must provide training to Authority staff on the retrieval of images.

(c) The images shall only be retrieved by authorized personnel of the Authority.

(d) The images shall only be retrieved for the investigation of criminal activity involving either the driver or passenger.

(e) Retrieved images shall be handled as evidence and documented in accordance with the proper chain of evidence.

(f) A form shall be developed and approved by the Administrator for the documentation of retrieved images.