



ORDINANCE NO. 28349

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to for-hire regulations; amending Tacoma Municipal
2 Code Chapter 6B.220, For-Hire Regulations, to establish a new annual
3 license fee for Transportation Network Companies to cover administrative
4 and regulatory costs related thereto, and to no longer issue For-Hire
5 Driver Identification Cards or For-Hire Vehicle Endorsements to affiliated
6 drivers of a Transportation Network Company so long as all licensing
7 requirements are met.

8 WHEREAS the City has regulated the for-hire industry to provide for the
9 safe, fair, and efficient operation of for-hire vehicles since 1942, and

10 WHEREAS Tacoma Municipal Code (“TMC”) Chapter 6B.220, For-Hire
11 Regulations, was amended in October 2014 to include the administration and
12 regulation of newly operating Transportation Network Companies (“TNC”), and a
13 one-time TNC license fee of \$15,000 was established to cover the City’s cost of
14 administration and enforcement of the TMC, and

15 WHEREAS the amendment also provided the option for for-hire
16 transportation companies to verify some license requirements, including criminal
17 background checks, vehicle safety checks, driver training programs, and driver
18 exams, in lieu of the City’s performing these tasks, which was intended to provide
19 an easier, faster licensing process for drivers and reduced administrative costs
20 for the City while still offering safe and fair operations for the public, and

21 WHEREAS the City issued 1,200 TNC licenses through December 2015,
22 at a cost of approximately \$85,000, and

23 WHEREAS the number of new TNC drivers in 2016 is estimated to be
24 125 per month, and the annual renewal rate of current drivers averages
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25 percent, bringing the total estimated number of TNC drivers applying for a
1 license in 2016 to 1,750, at a current estimated cost of \$125,000, and

2 WHEREAS, after one year of administration and enforcement of TNC
3 licenses, the cost and time of issuing Driver Identification Cards and Vehicle
4 Endorsements to TNC drivers seems overly burdensome to drivers and has not
5 proven to be of value to passengers or the City, and

7 WHEREAS, to save on administrative costs, the City will no longer issue
8 For-hire Driver Identification Cards and For-Hire Vehicle Endorsements to
9 affiliated drivers of a TNC as long as the TNC provides documentation to the City
10 verifying that all for-hire licensing requirements have been met, and

12 WHEREAS as a result of these changes in licensing, the proposed 2016
13 license fee for existing TNCs operating in the City will be \$135,000, which
14 recovers \$70,000 in costs incurred by the City in 2015 and \$65,000 in estimated
15 costs to be incurred in 2016 for administration and regulation of the TMC; Now,
16 Therefore,
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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That Chapter 6B.220 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, For-Hire Regulations,
is hereby amended as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

**Chapter 6B.220
FOR-HIRE REGULATIONS**

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Sections:

- 6B.220.100 Scope, authority and purpose.
- 6B.220.110 License required – For-hire transportation services company, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver.
- 6B.220.120 License inspection.
- 6B.220.130 Definitions.
- 6B.220.140 Fees – License and inspection; Exemptions.
- 6B.220.150 License expiration and renewal.
- 6B.220.160 For-hire transportation services company – For-hire data.
- 6B.220.170 For-hire transportation services company – Reports to the Director.
- 6B.220.180 For-hire transportation services company – Responsibilities.
- 6B.220.190 For-hire transportation services company – Approval of color scheme.
- 6B.220.200 For-hire vehicle – License application and requirements.
- 6B.220.210 For-hire vehicle – Standards for license denial; Appeal.
- 6B.220.220 For-hire vehicle – Transfer of for-hire vehicle license.
- 6B.220.230 For-hire vehicle – Owner surrender of for-hire vehicle license.
- 6B.220.240 For-hire vehicle – Operating requirements.
- 6B.220.250 For-hire driver – License application and requirements.
- 6B.220.260 For-hire driver – Criminal background check and fingerprints.
- 6B.220.270 For-hire driver – Certification of fitness to drive.
- 6B.220.280 For-hire driver – Training program.
- 6B.220.290 For-hire driver – Examination.
- 6B.220.300 For-hire driver - Standards for license denial; Appeal.
- 6B.220.310 For-hire driver – Temporary license.
- 6B.220.320 For-hire driver – Operating standards.
- 6B.220.330 For-hire driver – Reports to the Director.
- 6B.220.340 For-hire driver – Passenger relations standards.
- 6B.220.350 For-hire driver – Soliciting and cruising standards.
- 6B.220.360 For-hire stand – Establishment of for-hire stands.
- 6B.220.370 For-hire stand – For-hire driver standards.
- 6B.220.380 License suspension and revocation – For-hire transportation services company, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver; Appeal.
- 6B.220.390 License violations and penalties – For-hire transportation services company, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver; Appeal.

6B.220.130 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter 6B.220 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein; words not defined herein which are defined in Title 6, shall have the same meaning or be interpreted as provided in Title 6.

A. "Accessible for-hire vehicle" means a for-hire vehicle designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices where passengers can board the for-hire vehicle via a ramp or lift.

B. "Affiliated for-hire vehicle" means a for-hire vehicle licensed or associated to a particular for-hire transportation services company by using their application dispatch services, approved color scheme and/or trade name.



1 C. "Application" or "app" means a program or piece of software most commonly downloaded to a device
2 including but not limited to a computer and/or a mobile device, that is designed to fulfill a particular
3 purpose and/or provides content such as text, graphics, images, maps, communications, banking, payment
4 services, music, software, audio, video, information or other materials available to users of the computer,
5 mobile device and/or other device.

6 D. "Application dispatch" means technology that allows consumers to directly request transportation
7 services from for-hire drivers and/or for for-hire drivers to accept compensation for transportation services
8 via the internet using electronic devices, computer devices or mobile interfaces such as, but not limited to,
9 smartphone and tablet applications. The app may include mapping services to show the locations of
10 available for-hire drivers.

11 E. "Approved Mechanic" means a mechanic who 1) has met the automotive requirements of the National
12 Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, 2) does not own, lease or drive a for-hire vehicle, and 3) has
13 no financial interest, including any employment interest, in any for-hire vehicle or in any owner that owns
14 or leases for-hire vehicles.

15 F. "Certificate of Safety" means a prescribed document approved by or provided by the Director completed
16 by an approved mechanic certifying that a particular vehicle passed a uniform vehicle safety inspection,
17 and that the vehicle is mechanically sound and fit for driving. The approved mechanic is responsible for
18 checking that the plates, decals, customer notices as required by the City are legible and properly displayed
19 as specified by the Director by rule.

20 G. "Classic car" means an automobile that was high priced when new, is currently of superior appearance,
21 is a fine or distinctive automobile, that has been restored or maintained to current maximum professional
22 standards of quality in every area, with components operating and appearing as new, and showing very
23 minimal wear.

24 H. "Commercial activity" means the time a for-hire driver accepts a trip request through an online-enabled
25 app or platform until the completion of the ride.

26 I. "Compensation" means remuneration or anything of economic value that is provided, promised,
suggested, or donated primarily in exchange for services rendered.

J. "Director" means the Director of the Finance Department of the City, or any officer, agent, or employee
of the City designated to act on the Director's behalf.

K. "Dispatch Services" means a service which connects for-hire drivers to persons seeking transportation or
persons engaging in peer-to-peer transportation whether via radio, phone, internet, mobile application,
computer or other mechanical or electronic means.

L. "For-hire driver" means a TNC affiliated driver or a person physically engaged in driving a for-hire
vehicle that is providing or soliciting transportation services, ridesharing and/or peer-to-peer transportation,
whether or not said person is the owner of or has any financial interest in the ownership of said for-hire
vehicle or whether or not the person is using an app, a dispatch service, an information service and/or
similar method to provide transportation services for compensation.

M. ["For-hire Driver Identification Card" means a card or similar issued or approved by the Director and
identifying that the driver is licensed to operate in the City.](#)

~~NO.~~ "For-hire Stand" shall mean that portion of any street set aside and designated as parking or standing
space to be occupied by for-hire vehicles.

~~NO.~~ "For-hire Transportation Services Company" means:

1. A person who owns and operates a for-hire vehicle(s) and uses their own City approved color scheme
and trade name;

2. A person who does not own and operate a for-hire vehicle but allows other people to affiliate a for-hire
vehicle to the for-hire transportation services company's color scheme, trade name and/or dispatch
services; or



3. A transportation network company as defined in this chapter.

1 OP. “For-hire Vehicle” means any motor vehicle, whether a personal vehicle, fleet or commercial vehicle,
2 or TNC affiliated vehicle held out to the public for hire or used for the transportation of persons for
3 compensation; subject to call by the public generally, where the route traveled or destination is controlled
4 by the customer, the compensation is calculated on the basis of an amount recorded and indicated on a
taximeter, a mobile device app or an application dispatch service, by a written contract or invoice signed by
both parties, or based on an initial fee, distance traveled, waiting time, or any combination thereof as
permitted under this chapter, provided that, for-hire vehicle shall not mean:

1. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;
2. Ride-sharing vehicles under Chapter 46.74 RCW;
3. Limousine carriers licensed under Chapter 46.72A RCW;
4. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or persons with disabilities and their attendants under Chapter 81.66 RCW;
5. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under Chapter 81.68 RCW;
6. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from parking lots, hotels, and rental offices; and
7. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide “charter party carrier” and “excursion service carrier” services as defined in, and required by, Chapter 81.70 RCW.

11 PQ. “For-hire Vehicle Endorsement” means a decal, sticker or similar identification, issued or approved by
12 the City, which is prominently displayed on ~~the rear of~~ a for-hire vehicle, ~~identifying that the vehicle is~~
~~licensed to operate in the City.~~

13 QR. “For-hire Vehicle Owner” means a person that owns a for-hire vehicle.

14 RS. “For-hire Vehicle Plate” means a numbered metal identification plate, issued by the City, permanently
affixed to and prominently displayed on the rear of a for-hire vehicle.

15 ST. “Licensee” means any person or entity licensed under this chapter.

16 TU. “Operating a for-hire vehicle” means having a passenger in a for-hire vehicle, the for-hire vehicle is
17 parked in a for-hire stand, the taximeter is engaged in the for-hire vehicle, the dispatch records show the
vehicle has been dispatched, the for-hire vehicle top light is illuminated, the trip records show that the for-
18 hire vehicle has started a shift and there is no record for ending a shift, the for-hire driver is signed into and
active on the application dispatch service, the for-hire driver has offered transportation services to a
19 passenger, the for-hire driver is engaged in commercial activity or any other facts reasonably showing that
a for-hire driver has offered, or is available to offer, its services to a passenger. Operating a for-hire vehicle
does not include using a personal vehicle for personal use.

20 UV. “Operating in the City of Tacoma” means owning, leasing, advertising, driving, occupying and/or
21 otherwise operating a for-hire vehicle that at any time transports any passenger for compensation from a
point within the geographical confines of the City of Tacoma. A for-hire transportation services company is
22 “operating in the City of Tacoma” if it provides application dispatch services to any affiliated for-hire
driver at any time for the transport of any passenger or item for compensation from a point within the
23 geographical confines of the City of Tacoma. The term does not include being in control of a for-hire
vehicle that is physically inoperable.

24 VW. “Person” means any individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy,
25 trust, estate, firm, co-partnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust,
municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state of Washington, corporation, limited liability
26 company, association, society, or any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative,
fraternal, nonprofit, or otherwise, and the United States or any instrumentality thereof.



WX. “Persons with disabilities” means any individual with a disability who has a sensory, mental, or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of life’s major activities; is medically cognizable or diagnosable; has a record or history of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment. People with disabilities include ambulatory persons, whose capacities are hindered by sensory disabilities such as blindness or deafness, such mental disabilities as cognitive impairments or emotional illness, and physical disabilities that still permit the person to walk comfortably, or a combination of these disabilities. It also includes a semi-ambulatory person who requires such special aids to travel as canes, crutches, walkers, respirators, or human assistance, and a non-ambulatory person who must use wheelchairs or wheelchair-like equipment to travel.

XY. “Taximeter” means any mechanical or electronic device or instrument which, based upon a predetermined rate or rates, automatically calculates and displays, by means of figures, a fare based on distance traveled, time elapsed, or any combination thereof.

YZ. “Transportation network company (TNC)” means a person operating in the City of Tacoma that enables TNC affiliated drivers to provide prearranged transportation services for compensation using an online-enabled TNC application or platform which connects passengers with for-hire drivers using their personal vehicles and that is subject to the licensing requirements under this chapter.

ZAA. “Transportation network company (TNC) affiliated driver” means a for-hire driver affiliated with a transportation network company.

AAB. “Transportation network company (TNC) affiliated vehicle” means a personal motor vehicle used for the transportation of passengers for compensation that is affiliated with a transportation network company. A personal vehicle while used for personal use is not considered a TNC affiliated vehicle.

BBCC. “Waiting Time” means time during which the for-hire vehicle is under the direction of a passenger and the for-hire vehicle is not moving.

6B.220.140 Fees – License and inspection; Exemptions.

A. The fees are hereby fixed as follows:

1. For-hire driver and for-hire vehicle license.

Description	Fees
For-hire driver license	\$50
For-hire driver license replacement	\$ 5
For-hire vehicle license	\$75
For-hire vehicle replacement plate	\$25
Taximeter inspection	\$50
Taximeter inspection re-scheduling fee	\$50

2. Accessible services fund.

In addition to the fees specified in subsection 6B.220.140.A.1, as part of the license issuance or renewal fee, for-hire vehicle owners shall pay the following fees:

a. For-hire transportation services company shall pay a \$0.10 per ride fee for all rides originating in the City of Tacoma for each affiliated for-hire vehicle not meeting the criteria of an ‘Accessible for-hire vehicle’ as defined by subsection 6B.220.130.

b. The ride report and fee shall be submitted on the ~~last~~ day of the month following each calendar quarter beginning on January 1, 2015 on a prescribed document approved by or provided by the Director.

3. Transportation network company license.

a. Each TNC shall pay a \$15,000 licensing fee within 30 days of the effective date of this ordinance or within 30 days prior to making available within the geographical confines of the City their dispatch



application services or app which can be used to connect consumers with for-hire drivers who provide for-hire transportation services.

1 b. The Director may, based on information submitted by a TNC prior to the TNC making available within
2 the geographical confines of the City their dispatch application services or app which can be used to
3 connect consumers with for-hire drivers who provide for-hire transportation services, and after review of
4 administrative and regulatory cost impacts, fix a licensing fee of less than \$15,000.

5 c. The Director may ~~propose an ordinance to convert to a per ride~~ impose, in addition to the fee imposed
6 above, a fee to cover continuing administrative and regulatory costs related to for-hire drivers and for-hire
7 vehicles operating in the City of Tacoma. Such adjustment shall take into account whether ~~a per ride~~ the fee
8 will cover the actual costs incurred by the City since the TNC started operating in the City and estimated
9 future administrative, enforcement and regulatory costs of this chapter. The fee may cover regulatory costs
10 incurred by the City prior to the fee being established.

11 d. Once a fee is established, the fee will be reviewed prior to the end of every calendar year to determine if
12 the fee covered actual costs incurred during the previous year and if the fee will cover future estimated
13 administrative, enforcement and regulatory costs. The City will consider the number of actual affiliated
14 drivers licensed during the previous year and the TNC’s estimated number of new and renewing affiliated
15 drivers for the following calendar year in order to establish an appropriate fee to cover the City’s
16 administrative, enforcement and regulatory costs of this chapter. After such annual review, the Director
17 may change the fee in order to cover the actual regulatory costs incurred by the City.

18 e. The Director will develop policies and procedures for reviewing and adjusting the fees to ensure
19 consistency with this chapter and to ensure that fee adjustments are limited to the costs associated with
20 administration and regulation of the for-hire driver and vehicle licenses.

21 f. The annual fee established by the Director, is due on January 31st. If the TNC chooses, the fee may be
22 paid in quarterly installments throughout the calendar year and due on the last day of the month following
23 each calendar quarter.

24 B. Exemptions.

25 1. The for-hire vehicle license fees assessed in this subsection shall not apply to:

- 26 a. Accessible for-hire vehicles; or
- 27 b. TNC affiliated vehicles.

28 2. The for-hire driver license fees assessed in this subsection shall not apply to:

- 29 a. TNC affiliated drivers.

6B.220.150 License expiration and renewal.

30 A. For-hire vehicle license.

31 1. Each for-hire vehicle owner shall pay an annual for-hire vehicle license fee per 6B.220.140 times the
32 number of licensed vehicles.

33 2. Upon payment of the correct license fee by the for-hire vehicle owner and compliance with all other
34 requirements for issuance of a for-hire vehicle license, the Director shall issue a license.

35 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of 6B.10 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, for-hire vehicle licenses shall
36 expire on June 30th except that TNC affiliated vehicles shall ~~expire on December 31st~~ be effective as of the
first day of the month of issuance regardless of the actual date of issue and shall expire one (1) year from
the date of issuance. Each for-hire vehicle owner must renew the for-hire vehicle license every year.

37 4. No for-hire vehicle license may be renewed unless all outstanding penalties assessed against the for-hire
38 vehicle owner are paid in full, the for-hire transportation services company is in compliance with the
39 provisions of this chapter, and the for-hire vehicle owner has filed a renewal application and paid the
40 renewal fee and all inspection fees.



B. For-hire driver license.

1. All for-hire drivers' licenses issued pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle shall be effective as of the first day of the month of issuance regardless of the actual date of issue and shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance.

2. Each for-hire driver must renew the for-hire driver's license every year, provide new photographs, and provide or submit to an updated criminal background check.

3. Effective January 1, 2015, all for-hire drivers' licenses issued pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle shall be effective as of the first day of the month of issuance regardless of the actual date of issue and shall expire two (2) years from the date of issuance, except that TNC affiliated drivers shall expire on December 31st of every calendar year.

4. Effective January 1, 2015, each for-hire driver must renew the for-hire driver's license every other year, provide new photographs, and submit to a new criminal background check.

5. No for-hire driver's license may be renewed unless all outstanding penalties against the for-hire driver are paid in full to the Director and the for-hire driver has filed a renewal application and paid the renewal fee.

6. Whenever the for-hire driver license furnished by the City shall become worn out, damaged, faded or otherwise unfit for use, the City may require that such license be destroyed and may require the licensee to furnish new photographs if the City does not have current photos on file that can be used on the replacement license and purchase a replacement license according to the fee established in 6B.220.140.

C. The Director shall deny any renewal application if grounds exist for the Director to deny a license pursuant to 6B.220.210 and 6B.220.300 and may deny the renewal if grounds exist that would justify denial under 6B.10.

D. Denial of renewal of a for-hire vehicle or for-hire driver license is subject to appeal pursuant to Chapter 6B.10 of the Tacoma Municipal Code.

E. TNC affiliated for-hire drivers and vehicles will not be issued a For-hire Driver Identification Card or a For-hire Vehicle Endorsement as long as the TNC's app or application dispatch system provides a picture of the for-hire driver and for-hire vehicle to the passenger prior to the ride being accepted and while the passenger is in the vehicle. This subsection shall not be construed to exempt any TNC for-hire driver or for-hire vehicle from the licensing requirements in this chapter.

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6B.220.180 For-hire transportation services company – Responsibilities.

The for-hire transportation services company shall:

A. Maintain a business address, mailing address, and email address (if available) where the owner can accept mail, and a business telephone in working order and/or an email address that can be answered during all hours of operation;

B. Comply, and require that all affiliated for-hire vehicle owner(s) and affiliated for-hire driver(s) comply with any applicable regulations promulgated under this chapter;

C. Ensure that each affiliated for-hire vehicle is insured as required pursuant to this chapter;

D. Provide proof of insurance to the Director required pursuant to this chapter;

E. Collect and store for at least two (2) years, records of service request (trip) originating in the City of Tacoma for affiliated for-hire vehicles, including daily records of for-hire vehicles in service, together with the affiliated for-hire driver's name and vehicle number (if available), and lists of all affiliated for-hire vehicles and affiliated for-hire drivers. Records may be maintained electronically;

F. Maintain a dispatch service, application dispatch service or contracted dispatch service, utilizing two-way radios, wireless device communication or an online-enabled application or platform capable of



1 providing reasonably prompt service in response to requests received by telephone, internet, email, online-
2 enabled application or platform or other request for service by a prospective passenger The use of wireless
3 communication devices while driving shall be utilized according to RCW 46.61.667, which prohibits the
4 holding of a wireless communications device while driving;

5 G. Provide a system for passengers to retrieve lost articles;

6 H. The for-hire transportation services company shall maintain a record of each oral or written customer
7 complaint that the for-hire transportation services company receives regarding regulations pursuant to this
8 chapter, about the for-hire transportation services company, affiliated for-hire vehicle owner, or affiliated
9 for-hire drivers operating in Tacoma. Where applicable, the for-hire transportation services company
10 should include a notice of the action taken by the for-hire transportation services company to resolve the
11 complaint, the nature of the complaint and the disposition;

12 1. The Director may request a record of complaints received by a for-hire transportation services company
13 when investigating any complaint received by the City concerning possible violations of this chapter or
14 regulations adopted hereunder by the for-hire transportation services company, affiliated for-hire vehicle
15 owner or affiliated for-hire drivers while operating in Tacoma;

16 2. The Director may recommend corrective action to be taken by the for-hire transportation services
17 company, for-hire vehicle owner or for-hire driver, revoke licenses and/or assess civil administrative
18 penalties as provided in this chapter; and

19 I. Review criminal background checks and driving records for every affiliated for-hire driver and maintain
20 records thereof if the ~~City is not conducting the background and driving record check and the~~ for-hire
21 transportation services company is conducting such checks themselves through a third party vendor
22 approved by the Director. If a for-hire driver's background check or driving record results in any denial
23 standard in accordance with 6B.220.210.A the for-hire driver shall not be permitted to provide
24 transportation services by affiliating with the for-hire transportation services company using the for-hire
25 transportation services company application dispatch or dispatch services and/or approved name and color
26 scheme.

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27 **6B.220.200 For-hire vehicle – License application and requirements.**

28 A. The for-hire vehicle owner is responsible for filing with the City a for-hire vehicle license application,
29 on forms approved by the Director and containing the information outlined in subsection B, for each for-
30 hire vehicle that is owned by such for-hire vehicle owner and operated in Tacoma.

31 B. The for-hire vehicle license application shall include the following information:

32 1. Vehicle owner's full name, home address, home and business telephone number;

33 2. Vehicle information, the make, model, year, vehicle identification number, Washington State vehicle
34 license plate number, and any other vehicle information required by rule or regulation promulgated under
35 this chapter;

36 3. Information as requested by the Director pertaining to any for-hire driver's, for-hire vehicle license
37 suspension, denial, or revocation, imposed in connection with a for-hire vehicle owned or leased by the
38 owner within the last three (3) years;

39 4. Certificate or Proof of an Insurance policy;

40 a. If the City does not already have on file evidence that each for-hire vehicle has liability insurance that
41 meet the requirements of this section, provide evidence with the City that each for-hire vehicle has liability
42 insurance in an amount no less than required by 1) RCW 46.72.050, as it exists or as hereinafter amended,
43 for non-TNC for-hire vehicles, or 2) ~~ESSB 5550, section 2*~~ RCW 48.177.010, as it exists or as hereinafter
44 amended, for TNC for-hire vehicles, at any time while active on an application dispatch service and/or
45 'operating a for-hire vehicle.' The insurance policy, and any related for-hire driver contracts if applicable,
46 must be submitted to the Director. The insurance policy shall:



(1) At a minimum be issued by either: a) an admitted carrier in the State of Washington with an A.M. Best Rating of not less than B VII or b) a surplus line insurers with an A.M. Best Rating of not less than B+ VII;

(2) Name the City of Tacoma as an additional insured;

(3) Provide that the insurer will notify the Director, in writing, of any cancellation and/or non-renewal at least thirty (30) days before that cancellation and/or non-renewal takes effect; and

(4) Not include aggregate limits, or named driver requirements or exclusions. Other limitations or restrictions beyond standard insurance services office (ISO) business auto policy form are subject to approval by the Director.

b. An insurance policy of underinsured motorist coverage indicating 1) a minimum combined single limit coverage of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) or split level coverage of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per person, three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per accident for non-TNC for-hire vehicles or 2) the amounts required by [ESSB 5550 section 2*RCW 48.177.010](#), as it exists or as hereinafter amended, for TNC for-hire vehicles;

5. State of Washington vehicle registration;

6. Certificate of Safety or proof that the applicant's vehicle has passed a uniform vehicle safety inspection, as specified by the Director by rule;

7. If using a for-hire transportation services company's approved color scheme and name, a letter from the for-hire transportation services company which indicates the applicant is authorized to operate a for-hire vehicle using the for-hire transportation services company's approved color scheme and/or name;

8. If applying as a TNC affiliated vehicle, a letter or documentation [with content approved by the Director](#) from the affiliated TNC which indicates the applicant is authorized to affiliate the for-hire vehicle to the TNC using their app and that all for-hire vehicle requirements outlined in this chapter have been met;

9. If using a taximeter in the for-hire vehicle the taximeter shall have been inspected and found to be accurate and sealed, and the annual inspection fee paid according to 6B.220.140.

a. The taximeter must be sealed and in good working order and in accurate operating condition and shall at all times comply with the specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements as adopted by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and set forth at Section 5.54 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44 of Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices, 2003. Every taximeter shall be inspected, sealed and certified at installation, at change in rate, and within 1 year of the last inspection. A certificate of inspection certifying compliance with this chapter shall be issued by the Director upon each required taximeter inspection and the taximeter shall upon each such inspection be sealed by the Director. Such certificate of inspection shall include:

(1) The identifying number of the taximeter;

(2) The make, model and license number of the for-hire vehicle in which the taximeter is installed;

(3) The name of the for-hire transportation services company;

(4) The date of inspection;

(5) A certification that the taximeter has been inspected and approved as operating within the limits of accuracy as specified by this Section;

(6) The signature of the individual making the certification; and

(7) A copy of the certificate shall be kept on file in the office of the for-hire transportation services company.

b. No taximeter shall be used unless the same carries thereon an unbroken seal affixed thereto by the qualified taximeter repair service or the Director.



c. For the purpose of checking the accuracy of said taximeter, the for-hire vehicle to which the same is fixed shall be made available to the City of Tacoma at such times as the Director may direct; and

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10. Any other documents required by regulations promulgated under this chapter.

C. The for-hire vehicle’s model year shall be no more than ten (10) years prior to the date of application. For example, vehicles licensed effective July 1 of 2014, must be 2004 models or newer. For-hire vehicles meeting the definition of an accessible for-hire vehicle and/or classic car are not subject to a minimum vehicle age requirement.

D. The above application and information must also be completed and supplied as required during any annual license renewal.

E. The for-hire vehicle owner must inform the Director in writing within seven (7) days if any of the information provided pursuant to subsection (B) changes, ceases to be true or is superseded in any way by new information.

~~* RCW citation provided when ESSB 5550 is codified.~~

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6B.220.240 For-hire vehicle – Operating requirements.

A. No for-hire vehicle licensed by the City may lawfully operate within the City of Tacoma unless the following minimum vehicle requirements are met:

1. The vehicle has insurance as required by this chapter. If the insurance policy is canceled proof of a new policy must be filed with the Director. If the insurance policy lists the vehicles included under the policy and a vehicle is deleted from an insurance policy, proof of a new policy which includes the vehicle must be filed with the Director before the vehicle is deleted from the previous policy;

2. An approved mechanic has issued a valid Certificate of Safety based on a uniform vehicle safety inspection performed within the last license year. The Certificate of Safety remains valid, if the vehicle is sold, until the next renewal date;

3. The for-hire vehicle displays a for-hire vehicle plate with a current year decal issued by the Director when operating a for-hire vehicle or if the for-hire vehicle is a TNC affiliated vehicle prominently display a for-hire vehicle endorsement ~~with a current year decal~~ issued or approved by the Director when operating a for-hire vehicle;

4. All public rates, including discounts or special rates, are displayed in writing or otherwise displayed in an application dispatch service or for-hire transportation services company website explaining the rate structure and is transparent to the rider prior to accepting the ride;

5. The for-hire vehicle is equipped with a properly sealed, working, and accurate receipt-issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal or receipt-issuing application dispatch service. Receipts may be sent electronically;

6. The for-hire vehicle contains no scanner or other type of receiver that is capable of monitoring another for-hire transportation services company’s assigned frequency, except as otherwise permitted by the Director;

7. Every for-hire vehicle shall be equipped with seat belts or other restraining devices for every passenger and any other such safety equipment as is required by state or federal law, or this chapter;

8. Every for-hire vehicle shall be equipped with consumer information conspicuously posted in a prominent place within the passenger compartment, on the app used to obtain transportation services, and/or in an electronic receipt. Such consumer information shall include, at a minimum, the for-hire vehicle name and number, if applicable, the for-hire driver's name and for-hire driver license number, a consumer survey and complaint card and shall include the following notice: "The driver of this for-hire vehicle is required by the Tacoma City Code to give a receipt for services provided to any passenger who requests one. If you have a complaint about a for-hire vehicle or for-hire driver, contact the for-hire transportation services company



(name, address, phone number, email address) or the Director (mailing address, phone number, email address).” If the consumer information is made available on the app or through an electronic receipt or through a combination of such technologies, the consumer shall be provided the opportunity for feedback on the individual ride instead of a consumer survey or complaint card;

9. If a for-hire vehicle is issued a for-hire vehicle plate by the Director, the for-hire number on the vehicle shall be coordinated with the for-hire vehicle license plate number;

10. Every for-hire vehicle shall be available for inspection by the Director without notice except when a TNC affiliated vehicle is being used for personal use; and

11. Any other requirements set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

B. All applications for a for-hire vehicle license become void if the applicant, for any reason other than delay caused by the City, fails or neglects to complete the application process or obtain a license within sixty (60) days of submitting an application.

6B.220.250 For-hire driver – License application and requirements.

A. A for-hire driver must complete, sign, swear to, and file with the Director a for-hire driver license application on forms provided or approved by the Director to include the following information:

1. Name, aliases, residence and business addresses, residence and business telephone numbers;

2. Place and date of birth (which must be at least twenty-one years of age on date of application), height, weight, color of hair and eyes;

3. Social security number and Washington State driver's license number. The applicant must present his/her Washington State driver's license or a copy thereof at time of application;

4. Proof that the applicant is a United States citizen or has documentation, as required by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services, that the applicant is authorized to work in the United States;

5. Documentation that a full criminal background check has been completed on the applicant through Washington State Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal databases or through a Director-approved third party vendor and was reviewed as required in 6B.220.180.I. If a criminal background check is not conducted through a Director-approved third-party vendor, then the for-hire driver shall provide a signed statement to the City authorizing the Director to conduct a full criminal background check through Washington State Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal databases and consenting to be fingerprinted and the City will conduct a state and national Washington State Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background check;

6. Information indicating whether or not the applicant has ever had a for-hire driver's, or driver's license suspended, revoked, or denied and for what cause;

7. Documentation that a copy of the applicant's driving abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing was reviewed as required in 6B.220.180.I or a signed statement authorizing the Director to obtain a current copy of the applicant's driving abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing;

8. Completion of a for-hire driver training program and successful completion of exam explained in more detail in 6B.220.280 and 6B.220.290;

9. A statement under penalty of perjury of their physical and mental fitness to act as a for-hire driver;

10. All applicants for a for-hire driver's license shall include with his or her application one current full face digital photograph of the applicant, submitted electronically or consent to a full face photograph taken by the Director. The full face photograph shall become a part of the applicant's license, if issued; and a copy of the full face photograph shall be filed with the application;



11. If using a for-hire transportation services company's approved color scheme and name, a letter from the for-hire transportation services company which indicates the applicant is authorized to operate a for-hire vehicle using the for-hire transportation services company's approved color scheme and name;

12. If affiliating as a for-hire driver to a TNC, a letter or documentation from the TNC which indicates the applicant is authorized to affiliate to the TNC and to use their app and that all for-hire driver requirements outlined in this chapter have been met; and

13. Such other information as may be reasonably required by regulation promulgated under this chapter.

B. All applications for for-hire driver's licenses become void if the applicant, for any reason other than delay caused by the City, fails or neglects to complete the application process or obtain a license within sixty (60) days of submitting an application.

6B.220.260 For-hire driver – Criminal background check and fingerprints.

A. All applicants for a for-hire driver's license ~~shall be subject to must consent to be fingerprinted for a state and national Washington State Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background check.~~ ~~or Applicants may~~ submit proof that a criminal background check has been conducted by a Director-approved third party vendor and reviewed by their affiliated for-hire transportation services company as required in 6B.220.180.I. Proof of a criminal background check does not preclude the City from conducting a separate background check on the applicant.

If a criminal background check is not conducted through a Director-approved third-party vendor, then the for-hire driver shall consent to be fingerprinted and the City will conduct a state and national Washington State Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background check.

B. Approved vendors, at a minimum must:

1. Include local, state and national databases;
2. Access at least seven years of database history; and
3. Demonstrate competency in providing accurate information.

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6B.220.320 For-hire driver – Operating standards.

A. A for-hire driver shall not operate a for-hire vehicle without first obtaining and maintaining a valid for-hire driver's license and ensuring that their City issued for-hire license identification card is in the vehicle and available for display upon request by a passenger or City official or a TNC driver is able to display their active TNC app upon request by a passenger or City official.

B. No for-hire driver whose license has been revoked by the Director shall apply for a new license for one (1) year from the effective date of such revocation.

C. A for-hire driver shall not operate a for-hire vehicle, before ensuring that the for-hire license plate is securely affixed to the vehicle or the for-hire vehicle endorsement is prominently displayed on the rear of the vehicle and, vehicle registration and proof of insurance card are in the vehicle.

D. A for-hire driver shall not operate a for-hire vehicle, before checking vehicle equipment, including but not limited to the lights, brakes, tires, steering, seat belts and other vehicle equipment to see that they are working properly.

E. A for-hire driver shall not operate a for-hire vehicle unless the interior and the exterior of the for-hire vehicle are clean and in good repair.

F. A for-hire driver shall not transport more passengers than the number of seat belts available nor more luggage than the for-hire vehicle capacity will safely and legally allow.

G. A for-hire driver shall allow the Director to inspect the for-hire vehicle without notice at any reasonable time or place while operating a for-hire vehicle.



H. A for-hire driver shall not sleep in the for-hire vehicle while operating a for-hire vehicle.

1 I. When using the taximeter to determine the fare to be charged, a for-hire driver must activate the
2 taximeter at the beginning of each trip and deactivate the taximeter upon completion of the trip. Beginning
3 of a trip means the point where the passenger is seated and the forward motion of the vehicle begins. It
4 shall be the duty of the for-hire driver to call the attention of passengers to the amount registered and the
5 for-hire vehicle flag shall be placed in a non-recording position until the fare is paid. No other or different
6 fare shall be charged to the passenger than is recorded on the reading face of said taximeter for the trip.

7 J. No for-hire driver of a for-hire vehicle using a taximeter, while carrying passengers or otherwise in
8 service, shall display the signal affixed to the taximeter in such a position as to denote such vehicle is not in
9 service.

10 K. A for-hire driver shall assure when using a taximeter that the meter reading is visible from a normal
11 passenger position at all times.

12 L. A for-hire driver shall not operate a for-hire vehicle that does not have the rate(s) displayed in writing, or
13 otherwise provided in an application dispatch service or for-hire transportation services company's website
14 explaining the rate structure and is transparent to the rider prior to accepting the ride.

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16 **6B.220.390 License violations and penalties – For-hire transportation services company,
17 for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver; Appeal.**

18 A. Any person found with violations shall be subject to a civil penalty as described below. It is the
19 responsibility of the for-hire transportation services company to contact appropriate city staff to request
20 inspection for compliance with this code.

21 B. Class 'A' violations include but are not limited to:

22 1. Driving without a valid for-hire driver's license and/or a for-hire transportation services company
23 knowingly allowing an affiliated for-hire driver to drive without a valid for-hire driver's license;

24 2. Driving without a valid for-hire vehicle license plate or for-hire vehicle endorsement and/or a for-hire
25 transportation services company knowingly allowing an affiliated for-hire driver to drive without a valid
26 for-hire vehicle license plate or for-hire vehicle endorsement;

1. Driving without valid insurance as required in 6B.220.200 and/or a for-hire transportation services
company knowingly allowing an affiliated for-hire driver to drive without valid insurance as required in
6B.220.200;

4. Operating a for-hire vehicle with a revoked or suspended for-hire vehicle and/or for-hire driver's license
and/or a for-hire transportation services company knowingly allowing an affiliated for-hire driver to
operate a for-hire vehicle with a revoked or suspended for-hire vehicle and/or for-hire driver's license; or

5. Using a for-hire vehicle in the commission of a crime and/or a for-hire transportation services company
knowingly allowing an affiliated for-hire vehicle to be used in the commission of a crime.

C. Class 'B' violations are related to for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver standards that include but are not
limited to the following:

1. The vehicle equipment found not to be up to safety standards, including, but not limited to, windshield,
tires, spare tire/jack, headlights, four-ways, blinkers, brake light, tail/back up lights, horn, windshield
wipers, glass/window, door handle, seat belts, brake, accelerator emergency brake, mirrors, speedometer,
taximeter;

2. Allowing vehicle insurance to lapse;

3. Not clearly displaying to passengers [or a City official](#) a for-hire driver's license [upon request in the
vehicle](#) or a TNC driver not showing the for-hire driver's [active TNC applieense](#) upon request by a
passenger or City official;



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4. Not posting or providing rates in writing in the for-hire vehicle or on an online enabled app or website which explain the rate structure and is transparent to the rider prior to accepting the ride; or

5. The for-hire vehicle is not clean, interior lights are not working or the body of the vehicle has defects.

6. The for-hire vehicle license plate is not returned to the City within five (5) business days of retiring or removing a vehicle from service or within three (3) business days from the day a summary suspension is issued according to 6B.10.145, for a for-hire vehicle license or for-hire transportation services business license.

D. Penalties for violations shall be as follows:

Violation	Penalty
A	\$500
B	\$75

E. Any penalty issued under this subsection may be appealed pursuant to the process in Section 6B.10.265.