

September 16, 2015

Limousine Rates Changes in BC

The Passenger Transportation Board is expanding and enhancing its streamlined approach to regulating limousine rates in BC. The following changes take effect **October 14, 2015**:

- Minimum and maximum hourly rates will apply to all limousines in the province (along with standard rules for limousines rates). These rates are the same as those that apply to limousines in the greater Vancouver and Victoria areas.
- Minimum rates for YVR-Whistler point-to-point trips will be reduced 11% to 17% (depending on vehicle size)
- A minimum rate will now apply to most trips on the Sea-to-Sky corridor
- The Board's standard limousine rates rule will include adjustments that give limousine companies more flexibility in the rates they can set, and more clarity about how they may be applied.

The Board is making these changes after a review of minimum and maximum limousine rates in the province. It used input received from 44 limousine companies who participated in a detailed rates survey in June 2015. This represents about a quarter of the limousines companies we invited to take the survey. The Board also considered comments by limousine companies at February 2015 consultation meetings in the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria.

Overall, the Board has found that standardizing minimum / maximum hourly rates is practical, efficient and beneficial for limousine companies and consumers. The Board also found that there are benefits to support the expanded use of standard minimum rates for the more common trips on the Sea-to-Sky corridor.

A backgrounder is attached. It shares outcomes from the June 2015 survey and gives more details about the changes taking place on October 14, 2015.

The Board will post the new rule on September 30, 2015 and email a copy to limousine licensees in BC.

Limousine Rule Changes to Take Effect October 14, 2015

Expansion of Min./Max. Hourly Rates to all of BC

Survey responses indicated strong support among licensees outside the greater Vancouver and Victoria areas for minimum-maximum hourly rates. A review of surveys and existing limousine rates also indicated that hourly minimum rates in the Vancouver/Victoria rates rule are appropriate elsewhere in the BC. These changes will take effect:

- Minimum and maximum hourly rates (and standard rules) in the [Board limousine rates rule](#) (Nov. 24, 2015) will replace current hourly rates and rules. See Table I.
- Affected limousine companies can charge their current rates until May 31, 2016, to honour a written contract or quote that was made September 16, 2015, or earlier.

Table I: Minimum and Maximum Hourly Rates (BC-Wide effective October 14, 2015)

	Sedan Limo	Mid-Size	Stretch Car	Stretch SUV	Limo Bus
Maximum Seating (excl. driver)	3-5	Variable*	8-11	8-16	17+
Minimum Hourly Rate	\$75	\$90	\$110	\$150	\$175
Maximum Hourly Rate	\$150	\$160	\$175	\$240	n/a

* Mid-size limousines include SUVs and other body styles (6-7 pax.), vans (6-11 pax.) and antique sedans (3-5 pax.)

New Rates for Point-to-Point Trips on the Sea-to-Sky Highway

Survey responses indicated that most limousines licensees with larger vehicles want a lower minimum rate for YVR-Whistler trips. The Board is reducing the rates for larger vehicles by up to 17% (e.g. stretch SUVs). For smaller limousines, such as sedan limousines, the Board is capping the minimum rate so it does not exceed normal hourly charge of a one-way trip and deadhead. This reduces the minimum rate by at least 11%.

Survey responses also indicated support for an expansion of point-to-point rates to other trips on the Sea-to-Sky corridor. The Board is setting rates for common routes. These rates are proportional to YVR-Whistler rates on a time basis. Table II shows the new rates, including new YVR-Whistler rates.

Table II: New Point-to-Point Rates for the Sea-to-Sky Highway (Effective October 14, 2015)

Vehicles \ Trip	Sedan Limos	Mid-Size Limos	Stretch Cars	Stretch SUVs	Limo Buses
YVR-Whistler	\$300	\$360	\$440	\$570	\$665
YVR-Squamish	\$195	\$235	\$290	\$375	\$435
YVR-Pemberton	\$375	\$445	\$545	\$710	\$825
Vancouver-Squamish	\$145	\$175	\$215	\$275	\$325
Vancouver-Whistler	\$245	\$295	\$360	\$470	\$545
Vancouver-Pemberton	\$320	\$385	\$470	\$605	\$710
Squamish-Whistler	\$105	\$130	\$155	\$200	\$235
Squamish-Pemberton	\$180	\$215	\$265	\$340	\$400
Whistler-Pemberton	\$80	\$95	\$115	\$150	\$175

Maximums do not apply to the point-to-point rates. The minimums in Table II apply to all point-to-point transportation regardless of how a licensee calculates its rates (e.g. hourly or flat-rate basis). A maximum discount of 15% is also applicable.

Other Point-to-Point Rates

The Board is not expanding minimum point-to-point rates beyond the Sea-to-Sky corridor. Board-approved flat rates will continue to apply. This includes point-to-point rates the Board approved through applications to operate Perimeter Seating Buses under a Special Authorization licence.

Other Limousine Rates and Rules

The Board is adjusting the names of some rate categories. As noted in Table I, these are: Stretch Car, Stretch SUV, and Limo Bus. No changes have been made to which vehicles are included in these categories.

The Board reviewed minimum time charges for wedding and graduation packages. It was persuaded by survey responses that licensees should have the flexibility to set their own time minimum for any package rate as long as it is at least one hour.

Definitions

The Board is implementing the following definitions:

“Point-to-point rate” or **“transfer rate”** means a charter rate fixed in advance and charged for transportation between two points and may include deadhead travel.

“**Package rate**” means a charter rate fixed in advance and charged on an hourly basis.

“**Standby rates**” apply to non-driving time when a limousine and driver are waiting to provide transportation when the passenger needs it.

More Information

- [Limousine Rates](#)