

May 17, 2017

Streamlining Flip Seat Authority for Accessible Taxis

The PT Board is streamlining flip seat authorizations for licensees who operate wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs). The PT Board encourages taxi companies throughout the Province to include WATs in their fleets. This allows them to serve people with mobility devices such as wheelchairs and scooters. Flip seats make WATs more versatile and economic. WATs can be used for larger group transport when not being used to serve persons with mobility aids.

Operators no longer have to apply to install flip seats in WATs. Operators who receive WAT authority will also receive flip seat authority in their terms and conditions of licence. They will also be required to provide priority service to customers with mobility aids.

The Board is directing the Registrar of Passenger Transportation to standardize applicable licences in the Province to:

- Add flip seat authority for any taxi operator with WAT authority
- Remove the limitation on the number of WATs that may have flip seats
- Add a service priority requirement for dispatching WATs

This policy will not affect any licensee that currently has WAT and flip seat authority as well as a priority service requirement with respect to dispatch.

Some licensees have voluntarily converted a conventional taxi to a WAT. These licensees must notify the PT Board if they want to add authority for flip seats to their licences.

Flip seat authority is permissive. Licensees are not required to install flip seats in their vehicles. **Flip seats must be installed pursuant to [Division 10.07\(5\)](#) of *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*.**

The Board is making these changes effective as of May 24, 2017. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at ptboard@bc.ca or call us at 250-953-3777.