

May 11, 2011

2011 Rate Changes for Taxis and Limousines

1. BC Taxi Cost Index permits taxi rate increases of up to 2.38%

TCI 2011 allows taxi operators to request a net rate increase of up to 2.38%. This figure is based on index cost increases of 4.30% for the 2010 calendar year, less 2009 cost declines of 1.92%. The last time taxis could request a TCI increase was two years ago, based on cost increases in the 2008 calendar year.

TCI is an objective measurement that the Board uses each year to identify TCI rate increases for taxi companies in British Columbia. Data is obtained from BC Stats (wages and the Consumer Price Index for BC), the Insurance Corporation of BC (taxi insurance costs) and MJ Ervin & Associates (weekly average fuel prices for five BC cities). In the last year, the largest cost increases were fuel and insurance. Each of these costs rose by more than 9%.

The following deadlines apply to requests for a TCI 2011 rate increase:

- June 6, 2011: For rate changes to start June 18, 2011
- October 31, 2011: Final deadline to request a TCI 2011 increase

A [TCI request form](#) and [other details](#) are posted on the [rates](#) web page.

2. Minimum and maximum rates pilot project starts July 1

Starting July 1, 2011, limousine operators in the Lower Mainland and CRD will be able to set and adjust their rates within the minimum and maximum levels set by the Board. A standard set of rules govern when and how limousine rates are charged. The Board's Rule "[Rates and Rules for Limousines in the Lower Mainland and CRD](#)" is posted on the Board's website. The Rule includes a transition mechanism. We will mail the Rule to all limousine operators.

The Board is starting this project after receiving comments from industry through discussion sessions and written comments. A [report](#) on these discussions is posted on the Board's website.

3. Fuel Surcharges

The Board is reviewing its fuel surcharge policy for taxis.

The Board is also setting a fuel surcharge policy for limousines and other operators who charge hourly rates. This policy will be responsive to fuel price fluctuations. These are being finalized and will be posted on the Board's website by Friday, May 13, 2011.