



Invitation to Comment

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 27, 2007

Minimum Hourly Rates and Rules for Limousines and other Non-Metered Passenger Directed Vehicles

The Passenger Transportation Board is proposing a more flexible approach to the regulation of rates for limousines and other non-taxicab passenger directed vehicles where hourly rates are charged.

Proposed Policy

- The Board will set minimum hourly rates.
- Licensees may charge rates that are equal to or higher than the minimum.
- Licensees must not charge rates lower than the minimum without approval of the Passenger Transportation Board.
- The Board will establish a set of common rules that govern how rates may be charged and applied. (Draft rules are attached as Appendix 1.)

Applicable Licensees

The minimum hourly rate and common rules policy will apply to licensees operating **passenger directed vehicles, except taxis, whose current approved rates are hourly rates.**

The policy will not apply to licensees who charge:

- taxicab rates (either metered or non-metered)
- flat rates or point to point rates that are less than the minimum hourly rates

- per person rates
- zone rates

Exceptional Cases – For individual licensees, the Board may approve an hourly rate that is below the minimum hourly rate if a licensee can demonstrate that the public or a sector of the public would be significantly disadvantaged by the imposition of the minimum hourly rate.

Proposed Rates

- 1. Rates for Licensees with Originating Areas in the Lower Mainland**
 - Sedan Limousines - **\$65 per hour**
 - Vehicles that can accommodate a driver and 6 passengers or more – **\$70 per hour**
- 2. Rates for Licensees with Originating Areas Outside Lower Mainland**
 - Sedan Limousines - **\$60**
 - Vehicles that can accommodate a driver and 6 passengers or more – **\$65 per hour**

1. The above rates do not include GST or other applicable taxes.
2. The **Lower Mainland** includes Passenger Transportation Licence Districts 9A (Mt. Currie and south), 9 14, 14A & 15; the Greater Vancouver Regional District; the Fraser Valley Regional District; the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.
3. Passengers picked up anywhere in the Lower Mainland must be charged the rates for the Lower Mainland regardless of the terminating area.

4. To charge a "sedan limousine" rate, licensees must be specifically authorized under their terms and conditions of the passenger transportation licence to operate "sedan limousines".
5. The Passenger Transportation Board would review the minimum hourly rates every 2 years.

Proposed Implementation Date

The Board is proposing **October 5, 2007** as the date to implement this policy (as a Board "Rule").

Effect of Implementation

If the policy is approved all applicable licensees with hourly rates must charge a rate that is equal to or greater than the minimum hourly rate. Existing Board approved hourly rates would no longer apply.

Licensees could set "package rates" or a point to point rates as long as the rate would not be below the Board's set minimum hourly rate.

Licensees with hourly rates below the minimum rate, with "transfer rates" below the hourly rate or with point to point rates below the minimum hourly rate must request Board approval to continue to charge these rates. (See "exceptional cases" above.)

Comment Period

The Board invites written comments from licensees on this proposal. Comments will be accepted **until July 25, 2007**.

Comments will be considered by the Board and licensees will be notified in advance if this policy is to be implemented.

Send comments to:

Passenger Transportation Board
PO Box 9850 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria,
British Columbia, V8W 9T5
Fax: 250-953-3788 E-mail:
ptboard@gov.bc.ca

In all correspondence, please state your name, the name on your passenger transportation licence, if different, as well as your passenger transportation reference number.

For your convenience, comment form is provided in Appendix 2.

For more information, please refer to the "Question & Answer" Fact sheet that is posted under the "Information" tab on the Board's website: www.ptboard.bc.ca

APPENDIX 1

Draft Common Rules for Limousines and Other Non-Metered Passenger Directed Vehicles Charging Hourly Rates

Minimum charge

- The minimum charge is one hour of service.

Taxes

- The hourly rate excludes applicable taxes

Special Package or Event Rates

- Licensees may set rates for specific events, such as "graduation" or "weddings" as long as the hourly rate for service is not below that of the minimum hourly rate established by the Passenger Transportation Board.

Deposits

- Licensees may require deposits as long as the licensee (a) has a written policy and (b) supplies this written policy to the customer at the time the service is booked

Cancellations & Refunds

- Licensees may establish cancellation & refund policies as long as the licensee (a) puts any such policy in writing and (b) supplies this written policy to the customer at the time the service is confirmed by the licensee.

Additional Charges

- The minimum rates established by the Passenger Transportation Board are for transportation or transportation-related services only.
- Licensees may charge extra for such things as vehicle decoration; accommodation/meals for drivers;

damage; cleaning; ferry, tolls, parking, etc. as long as all extra charges are put in writing and supplied to the customer at the time the service is confirmed by the licensee.

Fuel Surcharge

- Licensees may impose a fuel surcharge as long as the amount of the calculation of the surcharge is made known to passengers in advance of the trip. A surcharge is in addition to, and does not replace, the minimum hourly rate.

Discounts/Commissions

- Discounts and/or commissions must not cause the hourly rate for service to be below that of the minimum hourly rate established by the Passenger Transportation Board.

Other relevant legislation:

Business Practices And Consumer Protection Act

APPENDIX 2

Minimum Hourly Rates Comment Sheet

(This sheet is provided for convenience only. The Passenger Transportation Board will accept written comments in any form)

1. Name of Licensee:		2. Passenger Transportation Licence Reference Number:	
2. Trade names (i.e. "doing business as"):		3. Phone, fax or e-mail	
4. I am licensed to pick up passengers in: <input type="checkbox"/> the Lower Mainland <input type="checkbox"/> outside the Lower Mainland			
5. I agree with the Board's proposed Minimum Hourly Rates policy (as outlined in the "Invitation to Comment" because _____			
6. I disagree with the Board's proposed Minimum Hourly policy (as outlined in the "Invitation to Comment") because _____			
7. I have the following questions about the Minimum Hourly Rates and Rules policy:			
8. I agree with the Board's Draft Common Rules for Limousines and Other Non-metered Passenger Directed Vehicles Charging Hourly Rates (as outlined in the "Invitation to Comment") because _____			
9. I disagree with the Board's Draft Common Rules for Limousines and Other Non-metered Passenger Directed Vehicles Charging Hourly Rates (as outlined in the "Invitation to Comment") because _____			
10. I have the following questions about the Draft Common Rules for Limousines and Other Non-metered Passenger Directed Vehicles:			
11. Signature of Licensee or Signing Authority			
Full Name (<i>print</i>):		Title:	
Signature:		Date:	