

Orange County Taxi Administration Program

OCTAP Regulations, Section 8 (Revised on 01-25-07)

8. TAXICAB INSPECTION STANDARDS

8.1. Minimum standards.

The minimum Taxicab standards are those of the California Vehicle Code. All Taxicabs shall meet all applicable standards of the California Vehicle Code as well as the following in order to pass the OCTAP vehicle inspection. Certain equipment must be present and fully functional as OEM (original equipment manufacture), as specified in this section. Taxicabs must be maintained to these standards at all times. OCTAP may administratively clarify and/or change the standards in the public interest. OCTAP will utilize the vehicle inspection form included in these regulations. A copy of the inspection form will be provided to the operators. This form will clearly delineate conditions which:

- Meet OCTAP standards and are therefore acceptable; or
- Do not meet OCTAP standards and must be repaired/re-inspected to OCTAP's approval prior to returning to revenue service; or
- Do not meet OCTAP standards, but are sufficiently minor to allow the vehicle to remain in service for up to ten (10) business days while repairs are made and completion of the repairs is determined by an OCTAP re-inspection (subject to a re-inspection fee).

8.2. Body Condition.

- 8.2.1. No body damage, frame damage, tears or rust holes in the Taxicab body and/or loose pieces hanging from the Taxicab body are permitted. Front and rear fenders, bumpers, hood, trunk, and trim shall be securely fixed and shall be in correct alignment to the Taxicab as OEM. Body damage shall include any un-repaired dents, distortions, depressions, bulges, tears, holes, or disfigurements.
- 8.2.2. The exterior of the Taxicab shall be maintained in a clean condition and shall be free of unsightly dirt, tar, oil, and rust.
- 8.2.3. The Taxicab paint shall not be mismatched, faded, blistered, cracked, chipped, peeled, or scratched.
- 8.2.4. Each OCTAP Permittee shall paint vehicles in one primary color scheme. OCTAP may approve one secondary color scheme for special vehicles as approved by the OCTAP Safety Committee.

8.2.5. The color scheme, name, monogram, or insignia used upon Permittee Taxicabs shall not be in conflict with and shall not imitate any other color scheme, name, monogram, or insignia used by any other Permittee. The provisions of this subsection shall not be applied to require any change or modification of any color scheme, name, monogram, or insignia continuously used by any Permittee authorized prior to August 1, 1999.

8.3. Brake System.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 26453.

8.4. Climate Control.

8.4.1. The Defroster must be operational pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 26712.

8.4.2. The air conditioning/heating units shall be functional at all times. The air discharged from the air conditioner interior vent system shall be continuously cool. All air conditioning temperature controls and functions shall operate as originally designed and manufactured with no knobs or components broken or missing. Systems shall operate on all OEM speeds with no excessive noise.

8.5. Exhaust System.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 27153.

8.6. Fuel Tank Cap.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 27155.

8.7. Horn.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 27000.

8.8. Hubcaps or Wheel covers.

Hubcaps or wheel covers shall be of like style and shall be on all wheels for which hubcaps are standard equipment.

8.9. Interior Condition.

8.9.1. Passenger compartment, driver compartment, and trunk or luggage area shall be clean and free of foreign matter, offensive odors and litter.

- 8.9.2. Seat upholstery shall be clean. Interior walls, carpet and/or flooring, and ceiling shall be kept reasonably clean. No rips or tears are permitted. All repairs shall be done so as to reasonably match the existing interior.
- 8.9.3. Door handles and doors shall be intact, clean and operational. Each door shall be capable of being unlocked and opened from the interior of the Taxicab.
- 8.9.4. Dashboards shall be maintained in a manner that is clean and free of loose articles. Dashboards shall be free of: cracks, holes, and tears.

8.10. Interior Information.

- 8.10.1. A 4" x 6" information card shall be displayed in plain view of all passengers at all times that the Taxicab is in operation.
- 8.10.2. The information card shall contain the following information on the Permittee: name, business address and telephone number of the Permittee and Taxicab Driver; the name, address, website, and phone number of the regulating agency (OCTAP) and the authorized fare schedule.
- 8.10.3. The valid Driver Permit issued to the Driver must be easily visible by passengers and law enforcement officers at all times that the Taxicab is in operation.

If a driver is operating an out of service vehicle, "Not In Service" signs must be displayed. Signs must be a minimum size of 8 ½" x 11" with lettering which is visible up to 50 feet during daylight hours. If window signs are used they must be placed in the driver's side rear side window and rear window. If magnet signs are used they must be placed on one door of each side of the car body. If equipped, a "Not in Service" top light is acceptable.

- 8.10.4. One OCTAP-issued customer information sticker shall be displayed in plain view of all passengers at all times that a Taxicab is in operation. The sticker shall be placed on the outside, rear, passenger-side window. The sticker shall indicate that the Taxicab has been safety inspected and indicate a telephone number to call for information.

8.11. License Plates.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 5202.

8.12. Lights and Lenses.

- 8.12.1. Headlights shall be operational on both high and low beams (California Vehicle Code § 24400).
- 8.12.2. Taillights shall be operational and the light emitted be red in color (California Vehicle Code § 24600).
- 8.12.3. Emergency flashers shall be operational (California Vehicle Code § 24252).
- 8.12.4. Reverse lights shall be operational (California Vehicle Code § 24606(a)).
- 8.12.5. Turn signal lights shall be operational (California Vehicle Code § 24951(b) (1)).
- 8.12.6. Brake lights shall be operational (California Vehicle Code § 24603(b)).
- 8.12.7. License plate light shall be operational (California Vehicle Code § 24601).
- 8.12.8. Interior lights shall be operational.
- 8.12.9. Light lenses must be OEM, intact and contain no holes or large cracks.

8.13. Markings.

- 8.13.1. Exterior markings shall consist of Permittee's Company name, phone number, body number and other OCTAP approved logo. Such exterior markings shall be properly and neatly placed and easy to read (in contrasting colors).
- 8.13.2. Permittee's company name shall be placed on each side of Taxicab in letters not less than 3 inches in height (in contrasting colors).
- 8.13.3. Taxicab number shall be placed on each side and rear of the Taxicab in numbers not less than 3 inches in height.

8.14. Mirrors.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 26709.

8.15. Muffler.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 27150(a).

8.16. Parking Brake.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 26451.

8.17. Proof of Insurance.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 16020 through 16028.

8.18. Radio.

8.18.1. Taxicabs shall be equipped with a two-way radio or cellular phone in working order.

8.19. Seat Belts.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 27315. Additionally, Taxicab restraint system shall be maintained to OEM specifications and shall be in good working order.

8.20. Steering and Suspension System.

Steering and suspension system shall be in good mechanical order. (California Vehicle Code § 24002(a) (b)).

8.21. Taximeter and Meter Seals.

8.21.1. A taximeter in working order.

8.21.2. All Taximeter seals shall be intact

8.21.3. Taximeter shall be certified by the County Sealer of Weights and Measures. The date on the seal shall not be more than 13 months old.

8.21.4. Taximeter shall be placed in the Taxicab so that the reading dial showing the amount of fare to be charged shall be well lighted and easily read by the passenger.

8.21.5. A Taxicab shall be placed out of service if the taximeter is not working, the seal is broken or missing, the date on the seal is more than 13 months old, or the authorized fare is not being charged.

8.21.6 Taximeter shall not charge a fare other than the authorized fare.

8.22. Tires.

8.22.1. Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 27465(b).

8.22.2. A jack, tire changing tool, and an inflated spare tire. A Company may be exempted from this requirement upon proof that the Permittee has a contract with a towing company and a policy in place to send another Taxicab for the stranded passengers.

8.23. Windows.

8.23.1. Front and rear windshield per California Vehicle Code § 26710.

8.23.2. Safety glass shall be in all windows.

8.24.3. Windows shall be operational as originally designed.

8.23.4. No window tinting on windshield or front side windows per California Vehicle Code § 26708. Any tinting applied to the rear side or rear windows must be light enough to allow any passengers to be viewed from the outside.

8.24. Windshield Wipers.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code § 26707.

8.25. Foot pedal Pads.

OEM rubber pads on all foot controls. Pads shall not be worn or deteriorated to the point that metal is showing.

8.26. California Vehicle Registration.

8.26.1. A valid registration per California Vehicle Code § 4462.

8.26.2. Registered as commercial Taxicabs per California Vehicle Code § 260.

8.26.3 Registered to the Permittee and/or Driver showing the same Permittee's and/or Driver's name and address.

8.27. Vehicle Age.

Effective March 1, 2001, OCTAP shall not issue a Taxicab permit for any vehicle older than ten (10) model years measured from the current calendar year (example: during calendar year 2000 vehicle must be model year 1990 or later). Vehicles older than ten (10) model years shall not be eligible to operate as a Taxicab under any condition.

9. TAXICAB OPERATION

9.1. Direct routes.

Driver shall carry a passenger to his/her destination only by the most direct and accessible route.

9.2. Receipt.

Driver shall give a receipt for the amount charged upon the request of the person paying the fare. The receipt shall identify the driver's name, Taxicab number, Permittee name, date and time of issuance.

9.3. Solicitation.

Driver shall not leave his/her Taxicab to solicit passengers.

9.4. Fares charged.

Driver shall not charge fares or charges higher than those authorized in the OCTAP Regulations. Furthermore, the driver shall activate the taximeter and keep it activated at all times while carrying a fare-paying passenger.

9.5. Additional Operational Requirements.

Nothing in this Section shall prohibit OCTAP or an Agency from requiring a Permittee or Driver to comply with such additional operational requirements for safe, efficient and courteous service for the traveling public.