

Vehicle for Hire By-Law M-12

The Saint John Transit Commission assumes administrative responsibility for new *Vehicles for hire By-law*

The Saint John Transit Commission has assumed responsibility for the new *Vehicle for hire By-law*. With this step, the Commission will be responsible for by-law enforcement and for the ongoing licensing and inspections of ALL vehicles for hire, including the taxi industry, limo operators and sightseeing tour operators. This is in addition to its existing purview over the City's public transit system.

The new *Vehicle for hire By-law* replaces the Taxicab By-law, which functioned to promote public safety with respect to vehicle condition, age, licensing and record checks on drivers, and expands these goals to include sightseeing buses and limousines as well as taxicabs. All these crucial checks and permissions will now be administered by the Inspector responsible for the new By-law who will be an employee of the Saint John Transit Commission. All vehicles for hire will fall under the new By-law.

The Saint John Transit Commission — one of the largest public transit systems in the country per capita — is dedicated to high standards of customer service through innovative programs and commitment to the community. The assumption of control over this By-law, and therefore all vehicles for hire, is a testament to the Commission's innovation and customer service.

This By-law ensures consistency and fairness of rates through the mandated use of Centrodyne brand electronic metering devices. The former Taxi Advisory Committee will be replaced with an annual feedback period for industry to provide feedback on proposed rate changes and other concerns. This feedback mechanism and the new By-law itself will help to elevate service delivery standards further, including driver knowledge and professionalism and vehicle operation and condition through mandatory annual vehicle inspections. In October of each year, the Commission will issue a public notice to begin an annual review process of rates for taxicabs and limousines in Schedule "B" of this By-law.

No one will be permitted to operate a motor vehicle as a Vehicle for Hire in Saint John unless they have a valid Operator's Licence, a valid Owner's Licence displayed in the vehicle, a current Motor Vehicle Certificate of Inspection displayed on the windshield, stickers for Schedule "B" on the back door window, and decal numbers for that vehicle issued by the Inspector in the upper left rear window.

Frequently Asked Questions:

You must hold a valid driver's licence, be at least 19 years old, and have at least two years of licensed driving experience.

Who is disqualified from having an Operator's Licence?

Anyone with recent offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Food and Drug Act, or the Liquor Control Act; or anyone whose licence issued under the by-law has been recently revoked or whose driver's licence is cancelled or suspended.

What record checks are necessary?

A criminal record check and a vulnerable sectors check.

What is the cost of an Operator's Licence?

\$50.

Where do I apply for an Operator's or Owner's Licence?

55 McDonald Street, Saint John NB E2J 0C7, using the form developed and provided by the Inspector.

How long does an Operator's Licence last?

Your Operator's Licence expires on your birthday annually.

Who is eligible for an Owner's Licence?

Any person over 19 years of age and owner of a vehicle currently registered for the applicable use under the Motor Vehicle Act and properly insured, provided the vehicle is clean inside and out, in good working order and complies with age restrictions.

What is the cost of an Owner's Licence?

\$150.

How long does an Owner's Licence last?

Owner's Licences expire at 11:59 p.m. on 31 May annually.

What about identification markings for my vehicle?

You must display a current Motor Vehicle Inspection sticker and identification decals issued by the Inspector with the Owner's Licence, and your vehicle must have the appropriate licence plates under the Motor Vehicle Act (H or L). Taxicabs must have a compliant roof sign.

Are there other requirements for vehicle appearance?

The vehicle must be clean and well-maintained inside and out.

How long can an operator drive on one shift?

You may not drive for more than 12 hours out of any 24.

Can I have two types of Operator's Licence?

Yes, but each must be applied for and paid for separately and one single vehicle cannot be used as both a taxicab and a limousine.

Can my vehicle be used as both a taxicab and a limousine?

No.

How are fares set?

Annually, the Saint John Transit Commission will conduct a review of rates, with public input, and then recommend to Common Council.

How are fares calculated?

The Owner must purchase and install Centrodyne meters. These must be maintained and be in good working order at all times and calibrated in accordance with Schedule "B" of this By-law.

Who enforces the by-law?

The Saint John Transit Commission Inspector [or Assistant Inspector] and Saint John Police.

What does the Saint John Transit Commission Inspector do?

He or she issues, suspends and revokes Owner and Operator licences, investigates complaints, maintains a register of licensees and inspects vehicles for compliance with appearance and identification standards.