

## Taxicab Drivers and MPD Enforcement of the District's Taxicab Regulations

(Latest Update February 2013)

Recommendation	Status
DCTC should review for accuracy and clarity rules and regulations governing taxicab drivers, particularly those that address issues raised in this report, and make such revisions as are necessary to promote understanding and compliance.	<b>Pending.</b> DCTC reports that its current efforts to modernize the taxicab industry include a reconsideration of existing rules and regulations, with section-by-section amendments as appropriate both for clarity and to reflect changes being made in the program, such as requirements for credit card processing, uniform taxicab design, and a uniform dome light.
DCTC should consider making available translations of important rules and regulations in the non-English languages most commonly spoken by taxicab drivers.	<b>Not adopted.</b> DCTC states that all taxicab drivers are required to speak, read, and write English as a condition of obtaining a license.
DCTC and UDC should assess the current UDC taxicab pre-license training course and work together to incorporate relevant provisions of Title 31 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations into the course content. Efforts should also be made to include a significant number of questions from Title 31 in the UDC simulated final examination.	<b>Adopted in part, pending in part.</b> DCTC states that the "Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012" vests authority for these educational services with the Commission. DCTC adds that the new structure will include public relations, cultural awareness, operator refresher, and wheelchair accessibility. The Commission expects to use public vehicle inspection officers (formerly known as hack inspectors) and MPD officers as instructors or guest presenters.
DCTC should require taxicab drivers to attend annual refresher training that centers on Title 31 of the taxicab regulations and applicable District law.	
DCTC and UDC should recruit interested MPD officers and DCTC hack inspectors to serve as instructors or guest presenters.	<b>Pending.</b> DCTC reports that more training, including joint training sessions with MPD similar to those previously conducted with the U.S. Park Police, is necessary for complete enforcement of taxicab regulations.
MPD and DCTC should establish regular joint training sessions for hack inspectors and MPD officers.	
MPD should review and update its current training materials and general orders, offer annual in-service training on taxicab enforcement to all MPD officers, and continue to provide roll-call training to inform officers of important changes in taxicab rules and regulations.	<b>Adopted.</b> MPD stated in December 2011 that it had worked to clarify any confusion on the part of officers by providing updates through its teletype system, as well as training during roll call, and that all corrections and clarifications would be incorporated into the recruit and professional development training programs and in MPD directives.

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<p>Both MPD and DCTC should review taxicab citations issued by their respective agencies and seek to identify any problematic patterns or trends. To address concerns about discriminatory enforcement, MPD and DCTC should develop a system to review individual citations, in order to spot outliers, <i>i.e.</i> officers or inspectors whose citation issue rates are higher than average. This can be accomplished by noting which infraction specified in D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 31 § 825 was incurred, which officer or inspector issued the citation, and any identifying information about the taxicab driver available from the citation. MPD and DCTC could coordinate to connect driver's license and vehicle ID numbers to specific individuals.</p>	<p><b>Adopted in part, denied in part.</b> MPD reported in PCB's 2010 annual that it would review citations pertaining to taxicab violations in order to detect any potential patterns or trends, and that an MPD representative of the agency's Homeland Security Bureau, which oversees the Traffic Safety and Specialized Enforcement Branch, will meet with a DCTC representative on a quarterly basis to review enforcement efforts and identify and address any existing or potential issues.</p> <p>DCTC reports that it has upgraded its computer systems, which allows it to generate reports concerning the notices of violations issued by public vehicle inspection officers. The Commission states that it is prepared to use these and other resources to work with MPD to address any related concerns.</p>