

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

(Last Updated – February 2012)

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.	Pending. DCTC reported on December 22, 2011, that it is pursuing legislation that would require a substantial overhaul of the District's taxicab regulatory structure, and that any review would be conducted after the law's passage.
DCTC should consider making available translations of important rules and regulations in the non-English languages most commonly spoken by taxicab drivers.	Not adopted. DCTC states that all taxicab drivers are required to speak, read, and write English as a predicate to licensure.
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.	Adopted in part, pending in part. DCTC reports that it is creating an agency director position to oversee education, licensing, and enforcement. Part of this person's responsibility will be to institute an annual refresher training course for taxicab drivers. DCTC further reports that, because the commission lacks the capacity to administer the program for all of the District's drivers, it is developing a "train the trainers" program whereby a smaller number of drivers would become certified trainers who would then conduct the refresher courses for taxicab companies.
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.	Pending in part, not adopted in part. DCTC also is working toward

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<p>MPD and DCTC should establish regular joint training sessions for hack inspectors and MPD officers.</p>	<p>having hack inspectors attend training at MPD’s training academy on a variety of issues relating to police interactions, and MPD reports meeting with DCTC to address training needs and program support. However, DCTC indicated that joint training sessions would not be effective due to the differing purpose of the two departments’ enforcement authority. DCTC instead expressed a desire to establish direct communication between MPD officer and DCTC inspectors that would allow the inspectors to respond to MPD stops of taxis to handle all enforcement of taxi regulations, and leaving all criminal and traffic enforcement issues entirely to MPD.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Adopted. MPD states that it has worked to clarify any confusion on the part of officers by providing updates through its teletype system, as well as training during roll call. All corrections and clarifications will be incorporated into the recruit and professional development training programs and in MPD directives.</p>
<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>Adopted in part, denied in part. MPD reported in last year’s PCB annual report that it would review citations pertaining to taxicab violations in order to discern any potential patterns or trends. 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 states that it is modernizing both the taxicab fleet and its computer systems, and that these enhancements would allow for greater ability to detect problems should they be reported, but did not commit to proactively reviewing the infractions.</p>