

Matthew W. Daus, Commissioner/Chair

**Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****December 11, 2007****TLC UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES REGULATIONS  
LEADING TO A CLEANER, GREENER NY TAXI FLEET**

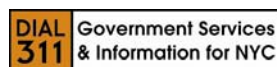
The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today voted unanimously to approve a regulation requiring that, beginning October 1, 2008, all taxicabs coming into service (with the exception of accessible taxicabs) must be capable of achieving a city mileage rating of 25 miles per gallon (mpg). This regulation also provides that, one year later, as of October 2009, all new taxicabs vehicles must have a minimum city driving rating of 30 mpg.

“The Commission’s vote was one big step for the TLC, but it was also a giant leap for the environment. This regulation – the first of its kind anywhere – lays the groundwork for the cleanest, greenest large city taxicab fleet in the world,” said TLC Commissioner and Chairman Matthew W. Daus. “The necessary hybrid vehicles are available, and they have performed well in the time they have been used as New York City taxicabs – and that is no small accomplishment!

“The bold steps taken by the TLC taking today would not have been possible without Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff’s vision and strong guidance in creating and furthering PlaNYC and its taxicab and for-hire vehicle components. This new regulation, and its result of an all hybrid taxicab fleet by 2012 put New York City in a leadership position for both environmental responsibility as well as prudent transportation regulation, saving drivers a significant amount of money, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and helping New Yorkers breathe easier.”

In fact, hybrid-electric taxicabs, of which New York City now boasts 627 – more than any U.S. city – have performed exceptionally during the three inspections each taxicab receives annually. Hybrid-electric taxicabs have historically passed their initial inspections at a rate of 85% as compared to the average 54% for Crown Victorias, requiring far fewer re-inspections. It is also true that the new regulation, when fully phased in, will save vehicle owners between \$4,000 and \$11,000 per year in gasoline costs, an industry-wide savings of as much as \$140,000,000 per year.

In order to ensure driver safety in the somewhat smaller hybrid vehicles, the TLC recently fostered the development of an “L-shaped” partition that will allow for maximum passenger and driver comfort, while still affording maximum protective abilities. As a result, the new regulations also remove the previously existing exemption from the partition requirement that had existed since the initial introduction of hybrid taxicabs in October 2005.

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