

NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Notice of Promulgation of Rules

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 1043(b) of the Charter of the City of New York (“Charter”) that the Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) promulgates rules changing specifications for accessible taxicabs.

These rules are promulgated pursuant to sections 1043 and 2303(b) of the Charter and section 19-503 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York.

On October 20, 2011, a public hearing was held by the TLC at its offices at 33 Beaver Street., New York, New York, 10004. These rules will take effect 30 days after publication.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Rules

Current wheelchair accessible cabs are configured so that wheelchair passengers must ride behind the driver or behind other passengers in the luggage compartment area within the vehicle, leaving no or only a limited view of the road for the wheelchair passenger. These vehicles are currently manufactured by an original equipment manufacturer and then altered by a second manufacturer into an accessible taxicab. An original equipment manufacturer has now designed and built a new wheelchair accessible vehicle that accommodates a wheelchair passenger in the front right seat facing forward, next to the driver, affording the passenger a clear view of the road.

The Commission favors this vehicle because:

- this innovative vehicle expands the choice of accessible taxicabs available to the industry, and,
- vehicles manufactured by an original manufacturer specifically as a wheelchair accessible vehicle will provide a better customer experience and may last longer than converted vehicles.

To accommodate the design of the front-facing wheelchair accessible vehicles, the rule makes one change to existing requirements and creates four exceptions to requirements for existing accessible vehicles, as shown in the table below:

	Existing Accessible Vehicles	Front Placed Passenger Vehicles
Minimum passenger compartment length	56 inches	38 inches
Rear compartment effective legroom (L51)	43 inches	36 inches
Front compartment effective	42 inches	40 inches

legroom (L34) for front placed passenger vehicles		
Minimum total legroom for front placed passenger vehicles	85 inches	76 inches
Maximum horsepower for accessible taxicabs	240 horsepower (all accessible vehicles)	290 horsepower (all accessible vehicles)

New material is underlined.
[Deleted material is in brackets.]

Section 1. Section 67-05.2(b)(1) and (c)(2) of chapter 67 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding new paragraphs (c)(3) and (c)(4) to such section and by renumbering existing paragraphs (c)(3) through (c)(12) as paragraphs (c)(5) through (c)(14), to read as follows:

§ 67-05.2 Standard Specifications for Accessible Taxicab Models

- (b) The chassis of the Accessible Vehicle, as originally manufactured, must have:
 - (1) A maximum horsepower of [240] 290.

- (c) The Accessible Taxicab as manufactured by the original equipment manufacturer (“OEM”) or as modified by an OEM-approved second-stage manufacturer must meet the following specifications:
 - (2)(i) The minimum passenger compartment length (measured from the rear of driver’s seat base to rear seat base) must be 56 inches.

 - (ii) Exception: For an Accessible Taxicab designed to carry a Wheelchair Passenger in the front right position beside the Driver, the minimum passenger compartment length must be 38 inches.

 - (3) The rear compartment of any vehicle approved for use as an Accessible Taxicab Model must meet the following dimensions as defined by the Society of Automotive Engineers:
 - (i) Effective legroom (L51) must be at least 43 inches,

(ii) Exception: For an Accessible Taxicab designed to carry a Wheelchair Passenger in the front right position beside the Driver, the minimum effective legroom (L51) must be at least 36 inches.

(4) The front compartment of any vehicle approved for use as an Accessible Taxicab Model must meet the following dimensions:

(i) Effective legroom (L34) must be at least 42 inches.

(ii) Exception: For an Accessible Taxicab designed to carry a Wheelchair Passenger in the front right position beside the Driver, the minimum effective legroom (L34) must be at least 40 inches.

(i) Total legroom (the sum of L34 and L51) must be at least 85 inches.

(ii) Exception: For an Accessible Taxicab designed to carry a Wheelchair Passenger in the front right position beside the Driver, the minimum effective total legroom must be at least 76 inches.