

Required Changes to Medallion Taxicab Roof Light

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All medallions taxicabs must change their roof lights to conform to new TLC rules by their first scheduled inspections after January 15, 2013

On November 29, 2012 the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) approved required changes to medallion taxicab roof lights. The "off-duty" light will be eliminated in favor of a simplified system in which an illuminated medallion number on the roof light indicates "available for a hail" and a darkened medallion number roof light indicates "unavailable for a hail" (either because the driver is off-duty or because the taxi is occupied). These changes were made to reduce passenger confusion.

Attention Owners: Changes to Vehicle Equipment

By each taxicab's next scheduled inspection occurring on or after **January 15, 2013**:

- The roof light must not have "off-duty" lights. Owners who do not wish to purchase new roof lights may modify their existing roof lights by blackening the off-duty portion of their existing roof lights.
- There may be no manual switch for the driver to use to control the roof light. The roof light may only be controlled by the taximeter/TPEP system.
- All TPEP vendors and companies supplying meters to NYC taxicabs are prepared to make these changes. Contact your usual service provider. A list of licensed taximeter shops is available at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/tlc/downloads/excel/current_taxicab_meter_shops.xls
- Owners whose next inspection falls before January 15, 2013 have until the following inspection to make the roof light changes, but may make them sooner if they wish.

Attention Taxi Drivers: Changes to Off-Duty Procedures

Once the taxicab you operate is equipped with the updated roof light system:

- Whenever you are taking a break, using the taxicab for personal use, or ending your shift, indicate that you are not available for a passenger hail by entering the appropriate off-duty code into the TPEP system.
- Entering this code into the updated TPEP system will automatically turn off your medallion number roof light and passengers will know you are unavailable because your entire roof light will be dark. **There will no longer be a separate off-duty switch or light.**
- You may not solicit passengers while you are off-duty, with the exception of the “going my way” trip at the end of your shift. To do a “going my way” trip:
 - You must be returning your taxicab to your garage or home.
 - You must enter into TPEP the code “Returning to garage (or home).”
 - The passenger’s destination must be directly on the route to your home or garage.
 - If you pick up a “going my way” passenger, log back on-duty to properly record the trip in TPEP and then log back off after you have dropped off this final passenger.

This notice summarizes the required changes. If you would like more detail, please visit www.nyc.gov/taxi to read the updated rules sections 51, 54, 58 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York. You may also call 718-391-5501 or 311 for more information about the new roof light rules.