

## NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

### **Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rules**

**What are we proposing?** The Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) is proposing to amend its rules relating to TLC Drivers and Driver License Applicants.

**When and where is the Hearing?** TLC will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule. The public hearing will take place at 10:00 am on December 17, 2025. The public hearing will be held online using Zoom. There will be no in person public hearing. The public hearing will be livestreamed on TLC’s website at [www.nyc.gov/tlc](http://www.nyc.gov/tlc). To participate in the public hearing, please e-mail the TLC at [tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov](mailto:tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov) or call TLC at 212-676-1135 by December 16, 2025. After you have signed up to speak, TLC will provide you with a Zoom URL to enter in on your computer or dial-in via phone number if you prefer to call in.

**How do I comment on the proposed rules?** Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by:

- **Website.** You can submit comments to the Taxi and Limousine Commission through the NYC rules website at [www.nyc.gov/nycrules](http://www.nyc.gov/nycrules).
- **Email.** You can email comments to [tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov](mailto:tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov).
- **Mail.** You can mail comments to the Taxi and Limousine Commission, Office of Legal Affairs, 33 Beaver Street – 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10004.
- **Fax.** You can fax comments to the TLC at 212-313-3027.
- **By speaking at the hearing.** To sign up to speak and provide testimony, you must e-mail the TLC at [tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov](mailto:tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov) or call 212-676-1135 by 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2025. Speakers will not be able to sign up to testify the day of the hearing. You can speak for up to three minutes. Those who did not sign-up in advance to testify are welcome to view the live-stream of the meeting on TLC’s website. Please note that the hearing is for accepting oral testimony only and is not held in a “Question and Answer” format.

**Is there a deadline to submit written comments?** Yes, you must submit written comments by December 17, 2025.

**Do you need assistance to participate in the Hearing?** You must tell the Office of Legal Affairs if you need a reasonable accommodation of a disability at the Hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by mail at the address given above. You may also tell us by telephone at 212-676-1135. You must tell us by December 16, 2025. This location has the following accessibility option(s) available: Simultaneous transcription for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and audio only access.

**Can I review the comments made on the proposed rules?** You can review the comments made online on the proposed rules by going to the website at [www.nyc.gov/nycrules](http://www.nyc.gov/nycrules). A few days after

the hearing, copies of all comments submitted online, copies of all written comments, and a summary of oral comments concerning the proposed rule will be available to the public at the Office of Legal Affairs.

**What authorizes the Commission to make this rule?** Sections 1043 and 2303 of the City Charter and Section 19-503 of the New York City Administrative Code authorize the Commission to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule was included in TLC’s regulatory agenda for fiscal year 2026.

**Where can I find the Commission’s rules?** The Commission’s rules are in Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York.

**What rules govern the rulemaking process?** TLC must meet the requirements of Section 1043 of the City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Section 1043 of the City Charter.

### **Statement of Basis and Purpose**

TLC is proposing several amendments to its rules relating to TLC Drivers and Driver License Applicants and education requirements.

TLC proposes that Drivers who commit various related service refusal violations, such as refusing to transport a person with a disability and any accompanying service animal, attendant, or mobility aid, take a new TLC-created Vision Zero and Accessibility Remedial education course. This course covers multiple topics related to serving passengers with disabilities and the prevention of unjustified service refusals.

TLC is also amending certain rules to reflect updated and clarified language, such as:

- clarifying the timeframe for taking the TLC License Renewal Course during the renewal process
- changing TLC education course names
- clarifying the timeframe for completing Accessibility Training during the licensing process
- requiring Drivers to know not just the geography but the navigation of New York City streets (e.g., best or shortest routes, proper use of navigational tools, familiarity with pedestrian and vehicular signals and signs)
- amending the requirement related to loading and unloading passenger property to clarify that the requirement applies to all passenger property.

TLC further proposes to expand the “Fit to Hold a License” standard for licensure of drivers to reflect ongoing review of an Applicant’s fitness after submission of a TLC driver license application. An Applicant’s behavior before *and* during the application process may show that holding a TLC drivers license would present a threat to public health, safety, and welfare. One

example of such behavior is cheating or attempting to cheat on a TLC Driver License Education Course examination.

TLC is restricting the number of times an applicant may attempt to take the TLC Driver License Education Course exam to enhance exam security and reduce the potential for public disclosure of exam questions.

TLC proposes requiring New York City Police Officer applicants to take the TLC Driver License Education Course, as the course includes content that does not overlap with New York City Police Department training content. TLC does not propose that officer applicants take the accompanying examination.

TLC proposes eliminating the lifetime experience exemption for the TLC Driver License Education Course and examination, since the course topics have expanded and continue to expand beyond the topics that may have been covered in the past. The current TLC Driver License Education Course provides essential and up-to-date information for all returning drivers who have never taken an education course with the TLC. These topics include:

- Vision Zero and traffic safety to prevent collisions,
- updated street designs and traffic rules for safely navigating NYC streets,
- customer service and proper conduct as a professional Driver,
- interacting with TLC employees, law enforcement and other NYC agencies, and
- Driver economics and financial resource programs.

TLC proposes eliminating the advancement provision of 35 RCNY §80-06(c), relating to moving and resetting a license expiration date based upon a Licensee's unavailability for drug testing within the 90 days before their license is set to expire. Licensees are already provided with a 180-day grace period to take this drug test after a license expiration date, which provides a sufficient amount of time to complete this requirement. Making individual accommodations to the license renewal process has the further undesirable effect of shortening the term of licensure. Combining the 90-day period with the 180-day grace period, provides more than enough time for the licensee to plan and ensure availability.

TLC proposes removing language that provides for the conditional approval of Drivers who did not complete the Driver License Education course pending completion of the course within 90 days. TLC implemented conditional approval only as a temporary measure while developing the administrative processes and education tests necessary to implement an expanded education requirement for an increased population of drivers. Now that the course requirement is in place, TLC believes it is crucial for Drivers to complete it before receiving a license as it covers topics essential for Vision Zero and road safety initiatives. Moreover the existing examination infrastructure adequately supports the current population of drivers.

Other proposed amendments to Chapter 80 are intended to update grammar.

TLC's authority for these rules is found in section 2303 of the New York City Charter and section 19-503 of the New York City Administrative Code.

New material is underlined.

[Material inside brackets indicates deleted material.]

Section 1. The terms "Authorized Driver Education Training," "Authorized License Renewal Course," "Distracted Driving Course," and "Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Training", set forth in section 51-03 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York, are amended to read as follows:

**[Authorized] TLC Driver License Education Course [Training]** refers to a course of training that contains instruction on topics such as Commission rules and procedures, geography, map reading, Passenger relations, and courtesy.

**[Authorized] TLC License Renewal Course** refers to a course of training that is required for renewal of a Driver's License, and that includes topics such as an update of Rule changes, a review of Driver Responsibilities and duties, passenger relations, and an awareness of serving passengers with disabilities.

**[Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device** Course refers to a course in defensive driving and accident prevention that is approved by the Commission and by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

**[Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle] Accessibility Training** refers to a course of training that contains instruction on: (i) the legal requirements that apply to transportation of People with Disabilities; (ii) passenger assistance techniques, including a review of various disabilities, disability etiquette, mobility equipment training (including direct hands-on familiarity with lift/ramp operations and various types of wheelchairs), and safety procedures; (iii) individual hands-on training with an actual person using a wheelchair; (iv) sensitivity awareness, including customer service and conflict resolution policies; and (v) the dispatch of vehicles by an accessible dispatcher.

Section 2. Subdivision (c) of section 53-03 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (c) *Approved Driver.* An Approved Driver is a Driver who has a Valid License from the Commission as a TLC Driver and who has successfully completed [Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle] Accessibility Training or has a valid Paratransit License.

Section 3. Subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) of section 53-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York are amended to read as follows:

- (b) *Driver Responsibility.* An Accessible Vehicle can only be driven by an Approved Driver; that is, one who has successfully completed [Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle] Accessibility Training or has a valid Paratransit License.

|           |             |                         |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| §53-04(b) | Fine: \$400 | Appearance NOT REQUIRED |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|

- (c) *Owner Responsibility.* A Taxicab Owner and a Street Hail Livery Owner may not allow Drivers who are not Approved Drivers and have not successfully completed [Wheelchair Passenger Assistance] Accessibility Training, to operate the Owner's Accessible Taxicab or Street Hail Livery.

|           |             |                         |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| §53-04(c) | Fine: \$400 | Appearance NOT REQUIRED |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|

- (d) *Agent Responsibility.* An Agent or a base may not allow Drivers who are not Approved Drivers and have not successfully completed [Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle] Accessibility Training to operate an Accessible Vehicle.

|           |             |                         |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| §53-04(d) | Fine: \$400 | Appearance NOT REQUIRED |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|

Section 4. Subdivision (g) of section 56-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (g) *Familiar with Geography and Navigation.* Applicants must be familiar with New York City geography[,], and the navigation of streets and traffic regulations (e.g., best or shortest routes, proper use of navigational tools, familiarity with pedestrian and vehicular signals and signs), as well as the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Section 5. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (i) of section 56-14 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (2) In addition to the penalties provided above for any violation of this Rule, a Driver convicted of a violation of this Rule must complete a [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course no later than 60 days after the date of conviction. The license of a Driver who does not complete the [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course within the 60 day period will be suspended until compliance. Penalty: Suspension until compliance if course not completed within 60 days of the date of conviction. The Driver must provide proof that the course was completed.

Section 6. Subdivision (k) of section 56-15 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(k) *[Luggage] Request to Load Passenger Property.*

- (1) A Driver must [not refuse to transport] load or unload a passenger's [wheelchair, crutches,] luggage, mobility devices (e.g. wheelchairs) or other property.

|              |                                 |                     |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| §56-15(k)(1) | MANDATORY PENALTIES: See §56-02 | Appearance REQUIRED |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|

- [(2) When necessary or if the passenger requests it, the Driver must load or unload the passenger's luggage and other property, within reason.

|              |                   |                     |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| §56-15(k)(k) | Fine: \$50-\$100. | Appearance REQUIRED |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|

]

Section 7. Subdivision (f) of section 57-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (f) *Familiar with Geography and Navigation.* An Applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commission [that he or she is familiar] familiarity with the geography and navigation of streets and traffic regulations (e.g., best or shortest routes, proper use of navigational tools, familiarity with pedestrian and vehicular signals and signs) of the intended area of [in which he or she intends to operate a] Commuter Van operation.

Section 8. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of section 57-14 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (2) In addition to the penalties provided above for any violation of this Rule, a Driver convicted of a violation of this Rule must complete a [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course no later than 60 days after the date of conviction. The license of a Driver who does not complete the [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course within the 60 day period will be suspended until compliance. Penalty: Suspension until compliance if course not completed within 60 days of the date of conviction. The Driver must provide proof that the course was completed.

Section 9. Subdivision (d) of section 57-20 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (d) [Luggage and Mobility Aids] Request to Load Passenger Property. A Commuter Van Driver must [not refuse to transport] load or unload a passenger's [wheelchair, crutches,] luggage, mobility devices (e.g. wheelchairs) or other [mobility aid] property.

Section 10. Subdivision (e) of section 80-02 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding a new paragraph (4), to read as follows:

- (4) *Vision Zero and Accessibility Remedial Education Course*. Notwithstanding the penalty cited above for violation of Rule 80-20(a)(1), (2), (3), and (6), a Driver who pleads guilty before a hearing or who is found guilty following a hearing will be suspended. The suspension is deferred for 60 days; if the Driver completes the Vision Zero and Accessibility Remedial course within the 60-day period, the Driver will not be suspended.

Section 11. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of section 80-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The geography[,] and navigation of the streets and traffic regulations (e.g., best or shortest routes, proper use of navigational tools, familiarity with pedestrian and vehicular signals and signs) of the City of New York

Section 12. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (j) of section 80-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York, relating to completion of the TLC Driver License Education Course by certain Licensees, is REPEALED, and a new subparagraph (i) is added, to read as follows:

- (i) Applicants may only take the TLC Driver License exam once within a 30-day period and are limited to a maximum of three attempts during the 90-day application window.

Section 13. Paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 10 of subdivision (j) of section 80-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York are amended to read as follows:

- (3) *TLC License Renewal Course*. [Applicants for a renewal] TLC Drivers [License] must complete [the] a TLC License Renewal Course within the 90 [days] day period prior to the [renewal application] expiration date.
- (4) [*Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle*] *Accessibility Training*. Applicants for a new TLC Driver License [or for renewal of a TLC Driver License] must complete [the Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle] Accessibility Training as a condition of licensure.
- (i) This training must be completed before the §80-04(j)(2) TLC Driver License Education Course examination.

- (5) *[Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course*: A driver convicted of the Use of an Electronic Communication Device rule must complete the *[Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course* no later than 60 days after the date of conviction.
- (10) *Exemption for New York City Police Officers*. Any Applicant for a License who is a New York City Police Officer will not be required to take the TLC Driver License Education [Course] examination, provided that the Applicant meets the following conditions:
  - (i) Applicant must present a letter from [his or her] their commanding officer approving the application.
  - (ii) Applicant must [pass an examination authorized by the Commission] provide a New York City Police Department Off Duty Employment Form and provide updated documentation upon request.
  - (iii) Applicant must meet all other requirements for obtaining a new License.

Section 14. Paragraph (11) of subdivision (j) of Section 80-04 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York, relating to the Life Experience Exemption from the TLC Driver License Education Course requirement, is REPEALED.

Section 15. Subdivision (c) of section 80-06 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York, relating to adjustment of the expiration date of a TLC drivers license, is REPEALED and subdivisions (d) and (e) are relettered as subdivisions (c) and (d).

Section 16. Paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of section 80-08 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding a new subparagraph (iv), to read as follows:

- (iv) *Conduct While the Application is Pending. The Chairperson may deny the Application of any Applicant if, during the pendency of the Application, the Applicant engages in conduct that makes the Applicant not Fit to Hold a License.*

Section 17. Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (g) of section 80-14 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York are amended to read as follows:

- (1) A Driver must not Use an Electronic Communication Device while operating a Vehicle. A Driver can Use an Electronic Communication Device only while the Vehicle is lawfully standing or parked.

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| §80-14(g)(1) | <p>Fine: \$250 if plead guilty before a hearing; \$350 if found guilty following a hearing, and suspension. The suspension is deferred for 60 days; if the Driver completes a [Distracted Driving] <u>Portable Electronic Device</u> Course within the 60-day period then the Driver will not be suspended.</p> <p>Points: 3 for the first offense and for the second offense in any 15-month period;<br/>4 for the third offense in any 15-month period.</p> | Appearance NOT REQUIRED |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|

- (2) In addition to the penalties provided above for any violation of this Rule, a Driver convicted of a violation of this Rule must complete a [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course no later than 60 days after the date of conviction. The license of a Driver who does not complete the [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course within the 60 day period will be suspended until compliance. [The Driver must provide proof that the course was completed.] In instances where the Chairperson has not received proof of completion of a [Distracted Driving] Portable Electronic Device Course from [a TLC Distracted Driving Portable Electronic Course provider] the Authorized Driver Education Services Provider, the Chairperson will provide notice to the Driver prior to suspension that the Driver has a specified time of no less than 10 days from the date of the notice to [provide proof of completion of a Distracted Driving Portable Electronic Device Course to the Chairperson by mail] complete the course.

Section 18. Subdivision (c) of section 80-16 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (c) *Request to Load [Luggage] Passenger Property*. Upon the request of a Passenger, the Driver must load or unload a Passenger's luggage, [wheelchairs, crutches] mobility devices (e.g. wheelchairs), or other property into or out of the Vehicle's interior or trunk compartment, and must securely close the door or trunk compartment.

Section 19. Subdivision (g) of section 80-16 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (g) *Provide License Upon Request*. A Driver must [provide] comply with all reasonable Passenger requests to provide [his or her] their name, TLC Driver License number (or the Paratransit Driver's License Number as applicable) and the Medallion, For-Hire Vehicle or Street Hail Livery license number.

**NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS  
253 BROADWAY, 10<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
212-788-1400**

**CERTIFICATION / ANALYSIS  
PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 1043(d)**

**RULE TITLE:** Amendment of Rules Relating to Driver License and Education Requirements

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** TLC-157

**RULEMAKING AGENCY:** Taxi and Limousine Commission

I certify that this office has analyzed the proposed rule referenced above as required by Section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the proposed rule referenced above:

- (i) Is understandable and written in plain language for the discrete regulated community or communities;
- (ii) Minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community or communities consistent with achieving the stated purpose of the rule; and
- (iii) Does not provide a cure period because it does not establish a violation, modification of a violation, or modification of the penalties associated with a violation.

/s/ Francisco X. Navarro  
Mayor's Office of Operations

November 3, 2025  
Date

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL  
100 CHURCH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
212-356-4028**

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
CHARTER §1043(d)**

**RULE TITLE:** Amendment of Rules Relating to Driver License and Education Requirements

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 2025 RG 055

**RULEMAKING AGENCY:** Taxi and Limousine Commission

I certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed rule as required by section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the above-referenced proposed rule:

- (i) is drafted so as to accomplish the purpose of the authorizing provisions of law;
- (ii) is not in conflict with other applicable rules;
- (iii) to the extent practicable and appropriate, is narrowly drawn to achieve its stated purpose; and
- (iv) to the extent practicable and appropriate, contains a statement of basis and purpose that provides a clear explanation of the rule and the requirements imposed by the rule.

/s/ STEVEN GOULDEN  
Senior Counsel

Date: October 31, 2025