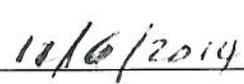




City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Finance and Administrative Services
Fred Podesta, Director

Applicant: City of Seattle	Page: 1 of 4	Supersedes: New
Department of Finance and Administrative Services	Publication: 10/16/2014	Effective: 11/12/2014
Director's Rule: R-6.310.175 Wheelchair Accessible Services Surcharge Collection	Code and Section Reference: SMC 6.310.175	FILED CITY OF SEATTLE 2014 NOV 12 AM 8:50 CITY CLERK
	Type of Rule: Code Interpretation	
	Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.02.060	
Approved:  Fred Podesta, Director	  Date	

City of Seattle Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Rules

Rule R-6.310.175

Wheelchair Accessible Services Surcharge Collection.

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 6.310.175.A states as follows:

6.310.175 Wheelchair Accessible Services Fund

A. In addition to the fees specified in subsection 6.310.150, as part of the license issuance or renewal fee, taxicab, for-hire vehicle licensees, and transportation network companies shall pay a \$0.10 per ride surcharge for all rides originating in the City of Seattle for each vehicle. As part of the City's taxi, for-hire, and transportation network company regulation, this surcharge shall be used to offset the higher operational costs of wheelchair accessible taxi ("WAT") services for owners and operators including, but not limited to: vehicle costs associated with purchasing and retrofitting an accessible vehicle, extra fuel and maintenance costs, and time involved in providing wheelchair accessible trips. Funds shall be distributed by reimbursement for documented, itemized costs. The Director shall adopt by rule the procedure for determining when and how to distribute funds to WAT owners and drivers, including imposing conditions of reimbursement, imposing a maximum amount of reimbursement, and considering timely distribution of reimbursement to WAT drivers and owners. In determining the distribution of funds, the Director shall consider factors including, but not limited to actual consumer demand for WAT services, total number of WAT rides, total number of WAT rides requested through a TNC application, total paid trips per WAT, and average operating hours per WAT.

R-6.310.175

Wheelchair Accessible Services Fund. All Wheelchair Accessible Services (WAS) surcharges will be deposited into the Wheelchair Accessible Services Fund. This fund is a self-supporting fund that shall be used to offset the higher operational costs of wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) services.

Responsibility of Companies. Taxi Associations, For-Hire Vehicle Companies, and Transportation Network Companies must collect WAS surcharges from all affiliated vehicles – licensed or endorsed, file the authorized forms and data reports with the City of Seattle, and remit the surcharges to the City of Seattle. Inability to collect from a driver does not release the company's obligation to pay the WAS surcharge. For information on data reporting, please refer to the SMC 6.310.540 as necessary.

Authorized forms. Reports shall be made upon forms authorized by the Director of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (the Director) or his/her designee. Forms provided by the Director will be available to all licensed taxicab associations, for-hire vehicle companies or transportation network companies prior to the due date of the fee. The Director may reject a report made on a form not authorized by the Director.

Trip. A trip is defined as transporting a passenger from one place to another for compensation.

Trip Reporting Method. The Company will collect and report revenue trip documentation for all affiliated licensees and remit \$0.10 per trip to the Consumer Protection Unit of the City of Seattle.

Reporting Frequency. The fee imposed by SMC Chapter 6.310.175 shall be reported and paid in quarterly installments, unless, at the Director's discretion, companies are assigned to a monthly or annual reporting period.

Due dates.

1. If on a quarterly schedule: WAS surcharge trip reports and payments are due on the last day of the next month after the period covered by the form. For example, trip reports covering the first quarter of the year are due on April 30.
2. If on a monthly schedule: WAS surcharge trip reports and payments are due on the last day of the next month after the month covered by the report. For example, a trip report covering the month of February is due on March 31, and a trip report covering the month of March is due April 30.
3. If the due date for filing a trip report and payment falls upon a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the filing is timely if the report is either (i) received by the City (in the City's possession), or (ii) postmarked by the United States Postal Service, on the next business day.

Payment with Trip Report Required. The Director may refuse to accept any trip report which is not accompanied by a remittance of the WAS surcharge payment shown to be due thereon, or any payment which is not accompanied by a trip report form, and if not accepted, the company shall be deemed to have failed to file a report, and shall be subject to the imposition of a Class C penalty as prescribed in SMC 6.310.540.C.

Completing the trip report. All trip reports shall be signed by a responsible officer or agent of the company unless the company has opted to file electronically. The individual signing the form will certify or declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the information contained in the trip report is true and correct.

Nonpayment of WAS Surcharge. If payment and trip report is not received by the due date, an invoice for an estimated payment shall be sent to the Taxi Association, For-Hire Vehicle Company or Transportation Network Company. The estimated payment will be based on historical and current industry data obtained by the Consumer Protection Unit of the City of Seattle.

Audits and Penalties. If any company fails to timely submit payment, the City of Seattle will assess the WAS surcharge based on the estimated surcharge for that quarter and may issue a license suspension notice.

The City of Seattle may periodically audit trip records, dispatch records, application records, or other records as required of companies to ensure accurate and complete reporting of revenue trips.

Appeals. A company may request a hearing before a Hearing Examiner to appeal any license suspension. A request for hearing must be submitted to the City of Seattle within ten days of the license suspension.