

Sec. 376.12. - Taxicabs—Regulations.

- (a) *Taxicab defined.* The term "taxicab," whenever and wherever used in this section, shall be held to mean and embrace all motor vehicles as defined by the laws of the State of Minnesota, the rental for which is computed from the distance traveled by means of a taximeter attached thereto; the term "taximeter" shall be held to mean and embrace any instrument or device attached to a motor vehicle designed or intended to mechanically measure the distance traveled, to record the time said vehicle is waiting, and upon which said taximeter there shall be a record indicating, by means of figures or designs, the amount of the fare.
- (b) *Taximeters required.* All taxicabs shall have affixed thereto a taximeter, and no person, firm or corporation owning or operating any taxicab shall offer or let the same for hire or reward, anywhere within the City of Saint Paul, unless the taximeter does properly and correctly register, indicate or display the amount of the fare according to the distance traveled and the time consumed.
- (c) *Register of taximeter visible to passenger.* Every taximeter shall be connected and affixed to the taxicab so that the amount of fare determined and charged for its use shall be plainly visible to all passengers or occupants of the taxicab and from one (1) hour after sunset to one (1) hour before sunrise shall have the face of said taximeter illumined so as to make plainly visible the amount of the fare determined and charged for its use, and there shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the inside of the taxicab and on the outside right and left rear doors of the taxicab a card on which shall be printed in plain, legible type, the rates of fare provided for herein and reference to the ordinance by number.
- (d) *Taximeter.* It shall be the duty of the operator or driver of every taxicab, at the termination of his or her service or trip, to stop the taximeter and call the passenger's attention to the amount of the fare registered. The taximeter shall not be changed so as to destroy the amount of the fare registered until after the fare is paid or a charge ticket therefor made out and delivered to the person hiring such taxicab.

No driver or operator of any taxicab shall permit any person to ride thereon or therein, without the consent of the owner thereof, when the flag is up or toward a vertical position where the fare is not being recorded on the taximeter, and no person shall tamper with, break or mutilate any taximeter or its attachments with the intention of causing the same to register improperly, incorrectly or inaccurately.

Waiting time shall include the time during which the taxicab is not in motion, beginning with its arrival at the place to which it has been called, or the time consumed while standing at the direction of the passenger, but no charge shall be made for the time lost due to the inefficiency of the taxicab or its operator or for the time consumed by premature arrival in response to a call.

- (e) *Rules to determine time.* When the charge is to be paid on the meter basis, the charge shall begin at the place where the passenger is received and shall continue until he or she is delivered at his or her destination, excepting as hereinbefore or hereinafter provided. When the charge is to be paid for on the hour basis, the time shall begin when the motor vehicle is ready at the time and place from which it has been called by the passenger and shall continue until the passenger has been discharged and until the car shall have had time thereafter to return to the place from which it has been called by the most direct route, and at the maximum speed permitted by law; provided, that when any person shall engage or hire a taxicab, unless otherwise agreed at the time of hiring, the fare for such taxicab shall be determined by the taximeter according to the rates provided for in this chapter; and provided further, that no driver of any taxicab shall charge more for the use of said taxicab than is shown to be due upon the face of said taximeter.
- (f) *Deceit as to direct route.* No person owning or driving or operating any motor vehicle used for carrying passengers for hire shall deceive by trick or device any passenger who may ride in any such motor vehicle or who may desire to ride in any such motor vehicle as to his or her destination or the price authorized by ordinance for such person, or shall convey such person or cause him or her to be conveyed to a place other than that directed by him or her, or in any other manner convey such person to the place directed by him or her except by the shortest and most direct route.
- (g) *Intoxication of driver.* No driver or operator of any motor vehicle used for carrying passengers for hire shall be found to be or known to be in a state of intoxication while on duty as such driver.
- (h) *Inspections.*
- (1) *Annual inspections:* Any taxicab owner shall submit each and every licensed taxicab to an annual inspection. The schedule for such inspections shall be maintained by the license inspector. The inspections shall be carried out at the fire/police equipment services garage located at 1675 Kasota Street, Saint Paul, at a cost to be established by the city garage and approved by the license inspector to be paid by the licensee. If the inspection shows repairs to be required, the owner shall order the repairs made and the taxicab returned to the city garage to pass inspection.
 - (2) *Periodic inspections:* The license inspector shall reserve the right to examine and inspect each and every licensed taxicab at any time. The intent of such an inspection is to ensure compliance with all applicable safety requirements of the state and the rules established herein.
 - (3) *Appearance inspections:* The license inspector may also require appearance inspections, up to

six times per year, to ensure that vehicles have:

- a. An interior and exterior that are clean and have a good appearance;
 - b. Head lights, high beams, brake lights and turn signals that are in good working order;
 - c. A means to raise and lower windows and to open the doors from the inside of the rear passenger area, if so equipped by the manufacturer;
 - d. Safety belts for all passengers in both front and rear seats;
 - e. A taximeter in good working order, having a light and sealed, and so placed as to enable the passenger at all times to see the fare registered when operating on the meter basis;
 - f. A printed card or sign with lettering a minimum of one-half (½) inch in length showing the rate of fare charged for the minimum fare, fare per mile or fraction thereof, waiting time at address and waiting time for engagement and notifying passengers that different taxicab companies may charge different rates, conspicuously and permanently displayed, not temporarily affixed, in the compartment of the taxicab occupied by the passenger and on the outside right and left rear doors of the taxicab;
 - g. A top light on the roof of the cab which can be lighted when the cab is in service and available to receive passengers;
 - h. A radio or mobile telephone capable of two-way voice communication with the taxicab licensee's or affiliated licensee's base station;
 - i. Safe tires.
- (4) *Penalty:* Failure by an owner to submit each and every licensed taxicab for a periodic inspection and/or appearance inspection at an authorized inspection station and/or for an annual inspection by the fire/police equipment services garage shall result in the following:
- a. The license inspector may seize the taxicab license sticker of each and every uninspected taxicab;
 - b. The license inspector shall hold the seized license plates until the taxicab is inspected and found to be in a safe condition by an authorized inspection station or the fire/police equipment services garage or until action of the council as provided for herein; and
 - c. Immediately after such seizure, the inspector shall notify the licensee, specifying in detail the cause for seizure, and stating that the licensee has a right to a hearing on the seizure. The hearing shall be held at the next license meeting of the city council after the receipt of a written request for hearing unless a later hearing is requested by the licensee. After such hearing, the council shall determine whether the plates shall still be held and whether such license shall be revoked.

(Code 1956, §§ 153.01 — 153.08; Ord. No. 16874, 1-7-82; Ord. No. 16992, 1-18-83; Ord. No. 16993, 1-18-83; Ord. No. 17075, 11-17-83; Ord. No. 17764, § 7, 8-28-90; Ord. No. 17873, § 2, 9-24-91; C.F. No. 94-199, § 12, 3-23-94; C.F. No. 96-486, § 1, 6-26-96; C.F. No. 97-870, § 1, 8-13-97; C.F. No. 00-889, § 1, 11-1-00; C.F. No. 01-799, § 5, 12-5-01)