

Passenger Transportation Board Bulletin

October 19, 2005

The *Passenger Transportation Board Bulletin* is published weekly on the web site of the Passenger Transportation Board. Printed copies are available directly from the Passenger Transportation Board at the address above.

The *PT Board Bulletin* gives notice of the applications for special authorization that have been received by the Board, the determinations the Board makes on those applications, as well as appeals from enforcement orders of the Registrar of Passenger Transportation. Board Advisories may also be published in the *PT Board Bulletin* to update the public and commercial passenger transportation industry on Board initiatives and changes to Board rules or procedure and policy guidelines.

Date: October 19, 2005

Subject: ***Temporary Fuel Surcharge for Taxicabs***

Advisory:

Fuel costs have continued to increase in the past year, and taxi companies have asked the Board for some relief.

The Board reviewed the fuel cost trends. Increases in fuel costs have been significant and sustained, and the Board has decided to implement a temporary and revocable fuel surcharge of 4.5% on metered taxi rates in British Columbia. Effective **Sunday November 13, 2005**, this surcharge is to be programmed into taxi meters. The surcharge will apply to the flag, distance and wait-time rates.

The temporary surcharge of 4.5% gives taxi operators some interim relief from recent fuel price increases without shifting the full cost burden to the passengers. Taxi operators still have an incentive to use alternative fuels, new engine technologies and other business innovations that are of benefit to their financial health and the affordability of taxi services. The surcharge is on the meter so taxi drivers will not be asking passengers for more than what is on the meter.

This surcharge is over and above the Board's regular assessment of taxi rates, i.e. the Taxi Cost Index (TCI). The TCI 2004 includes a fuel component that is based on 2002 and 2003 price data.

The TCI is reviewed at two-year intervals, and the next TCI review will happen in the first half of 2006 using 2004 and 2005 operating cost data, fuel prices included. The temporary fuel surcharge of 4.5% will be a factor that the Board considers during the next TCI review.

This Industry Advisory is being mailed to taxi companies in British Columbia, and a similar Municipal Advisory is being faxed to local governments in the province. The temporary surcharge will be implemented by a Board Rule that will be published in the PT Board

Bulletin (at its web site at www.ptboard.bc.ca) on November 9, 2005. That Rule will also be mailed to BC taxi companies.

Any taxi company that does not want the surcharge can, up until **Wednesday November 2, 2005**, request an exclusion from the Board Surcharge Rule. As well, taxi companies that do not use taxi meters can make a written request, up until **Wednesday November 2, 2005**, to have the temporary fuel surcharge added to their non-metered rates.

The Board has discussed the fuel surcharge with its advisory committee that includes representatives from transit, persons with disabilities, local government, the taxi industry and other stakeholders.

The Board plans to end the temporary fuel surcharge by the last half of 2006 after completing the TCI review. Still, the Board is monitoring fuel prices quarterly. It may review the fuel surcharge if there is a dramatic increase or decrease in fuel prices before the end of next year.

This fuel surcharge does not apply to limousines and other non-taxi passenger-directed vehicles. A decision on whether to implement a surcharge for these other passenger directed vehicles will be made after the surcharge is implemented for taxis.

Reference:

The Board Rule that puts the surcharge into effect will be posted at the Board web site at www.ptboard.bc.ca by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday November 9, 2005. This Rule will list each taxi company that comes under the Rule, along with the rates that each company is to charge when the surcharge is in effect.

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Part 1: Applications Received

Applications in which special authorization is sought are published in Part 1 of the *PT Board Bulletin*. To see a more detailed summary of the application, click on the application number.

Application	Applicant	Brief Summary of Application	Deadline for Submissions
1540-05	MALHOTRA, Parmjeet Kaur Victoria BC dba Global Cabs	Transfer of Licence (PDV) Proposed transfer of passenger transportation licence 70156 from MALHOTRA, Parmjeet Kaur dba Global Cabs to AKOURI, Ghanem dba GA Taxi.	November 3, 2005
1313-05	AKOURI, Ghanem Victoria BC dba GA Taxi		
2347-05	THOMPSON, Trevor Lumby BC dba Lumby Taxi	New Special Authorization (PDV) Proposed new special authorization to operate passenger directed vehicles in the Village of Lumby with a maximum fleet size of 1 taxi that can accommodate a driver and not more than 7 passengers.	November 3, 2005

Submissions:

Any person may make a submission on an application to the Passenger Transportation Board. Submissions should relate to the following matters that the Board must consider (see section 28 of the Passenger Transportation Act):

- (a) whether there is a public need for the service the applicant proposes to provide under any special authorization;*
- (b) whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to provide that service and is capable of providing that service; and*
- (c) whether the application, if granted, would promote sound economic conditions in the passenger transportation business in British Columbia.*

All submissions must be:

- *in writing*
- *accompanied by a \$50 fee (payable only by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance)*
- *received at the Passenger Transportation Board office in Victoria by 4:30 p.m. within 15 days of the PT Board Bulletin publication date.*

All information that a person submits on an application is routinely disclosed by the Board to the applicant. Any person who gathers and submits personal information from third parties is subject to the Personal Information Protection Act and should not guarantee the confidentiality of the information being submitted.

Within 10 days of when a submission is forwarded by the Board to the applicant, the applicant may reply by sending written comments to the Board.

Part 2: Application Decisions

Board decisions on applications for special authorization are published in Part 2 of the *PT Board Bulletin*. To see a more detailed summary of the application, click on the application number.

Application	Applicant	Brief Summary of Application	Decision
1481-05	FITT, Charles Ned & FITT, Lana Renee Burns Lake BC dba Lakeland Taxi	Transfer of Licence (PDV) Proposed transfer of passenger transportation licence 70111 from Charles Ned FITT and Lana Renee FITT to William James FITT.	Approved
560-05	FITT, William James Burns Lake BC dba Lakeland Taxi		
T823-05	FITT, William James Burns Lake BC dba Lakeland Taxi	Change of Rates (PDV) Proposed amendment in rates from flat rates to metered rates.	Approved
1447-05	GIFFORD, Carman Prince George BC dba Crystal Coach	Transfer of Licence (PDV) Proposed transfer of passenger transportation licence 70680 from Carman GIFFORD dba Crystal Coach to Buffy Dain RIVARD dba Northern Lights Limousine Service.	Approved
1467-05	RIVARD, Buffy Dain Prince George BC dba Northern Lights Limousine Service		
T1053-05	MUNDAY, Ricky Louis Frederick Kelowna BC dba Rickshaw Errand & Shuttling Service	Change of Rates (PDV) Proposed amendment in rates that were previously approved or set by the Board to make the business more competitive with airport shuttles; to clarify point to point rates and to add discounts and sales.	Approved in Part

Part 3: Hearing Notices

None

Part 4: Appeal Decisions

None

Part 5: Decisions Whether Application for General Authorization Requires Special Authorization

None

Part 6: Taxi Cost Index (TCI) Requests

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