



Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Taxi Requirements

Review & Update

Who: All Department personnel

Taxicab Requirements and Violations

The City of Santa Barbara currently has more than 45 approved taxi companies, nearly 200 approved taxicabs, and more than 180 approved taxi drivers. The City has no limit to the number of companies, cabs, or drivers that may be permitted, so the numbers in each category may continue to grow with time. However, the number of spaces where taxicabs may stop and pick up customers is limited, and as a result there are far more taxis in the City than there are spaces for them.

Per Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) §5.29.140(E) “The Chief of Police shall have the right at any time, after displaying proper identification, to inspect any permitted vehicle for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not any of the provisions of this Chapter are being violated. The Chief of Police has authority to designate specific equipment requirements and to require additional inspections of paratransit vehicles.” You do not need probable cause to inspect a taxicab; the Municipal Code grants the Police Department the right to inspect them at any time with proper ID.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS – The following are requirements per SBMC Chapter 5.29

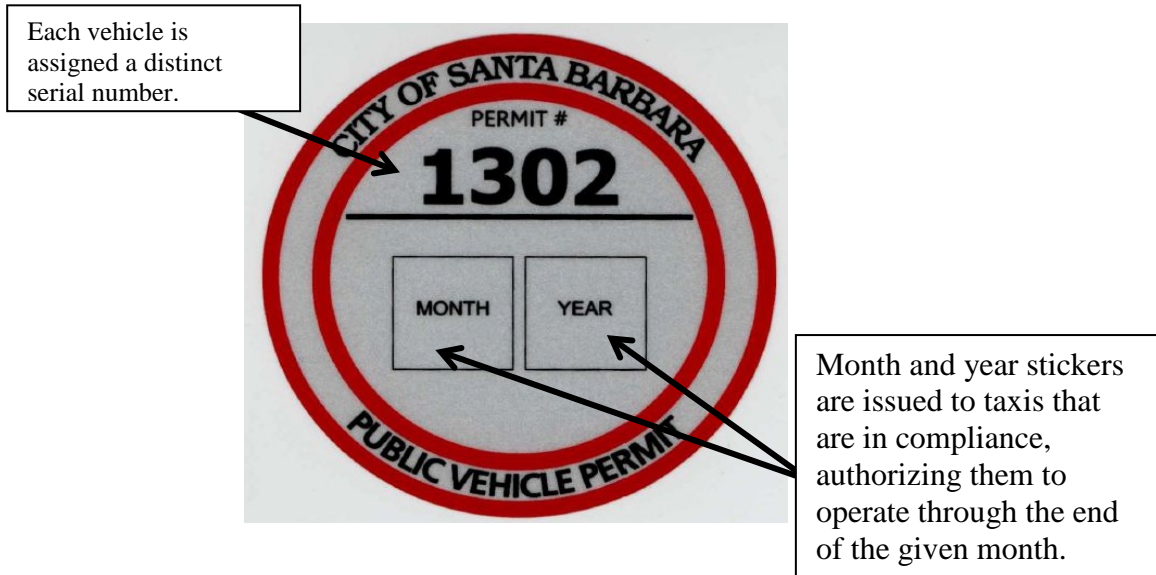
• Equipment required in vehicle at all times:

- Fire extinguisher – Check gauge to ensure it doesn’t indicate “empty” (§5.29.140.C.4.c.)
- Triangles or flares for emergencies (§5.29.140.C.2.)
- Map or GPS ((§5.29.300.A)
- Driver’s Permit – must be posted so that it is completely visible to passengers and not obstructed (§5.29.140.C.1.)
- Complaint Card – a card that provides passengers with the contact information for the Police Technician. Every taxicab must display this card in a place where it is completely visible to passengers and not obstructed. (§5.29.140.C.3)
- Manifest (aka “Passenger Log”) – The manifest must include the following for each day a driver works:
 1. The time the taxi went on duty and off duty. (§5.29.240.A.1)
 2. The taxi’s VIN and Driver’s full name. (§5.29.240.A.2)
 3. All trips made, including the time and place of origin and destination of each trip, and the number of passengers transported during each trip. (§5.29.240.A.3)
 4. The fare charged for each trip. (§5.29.240.A.4)
- Meter – The meter must be certified annually by the County of Santa Barbara Department of Weights and Measures every 13 months maximum. (§5.29.100.G). The date of the last certification will be written on the sticker-seal on the meter.

- **Exterior of Vehicle**

- Maximum rates must be listed on both sides of the taxi (§5.29.110)
- Company name and phone number – at least 3” in height (§5.29.120.D)
- Taxi ID – at least 3” in height (§5.29.170.B)
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- **City Decal** – Each vehicle approved for operation in the City will have this circular decal affixed on the rear of the car, to the left of the license plate. It is made of reflective material for greater visibility on the vehicle, particularly at night.



- The date stickers on the decal should never be more than 4 months beyond the current month.
- If the stickers on the rear of the vehicle are expired, ask the driver if s/he has a letter from the Police Technician’s office authorizing the vehicle to operate for an extended period. If the driver cannot produce the letter, the taxi is considered out of compliance. Request a copy of the most recent Inspection Sheet (all taxis are supposed to carry these sheets in their vehicles, but there is no penalty if they don’t) to determine what to cite the driver for.



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT

SBPD Date Stamp:

Taxi Company _____ Cab # _____ Registered Owner _____

Driver's Name (Print) _____ Signature _____

VIN# _____ License Plate # _____

Vehicle Make _____ Model _____ Year _____

ITEMS TO BE INSPECTED	CVC/SBMC #	√	ITEMS TO BE INSPECTED	CVC/SBMC #	√
Steering and Suspension	24002		Fuel Tank Cap	27155	
Headlamps	24400		Tires	27456	
Beam Indicator	24408		Leaking Auto Fluids	5.29.150	
Tail Lamps	24600		Vehicle Permit in Vehicle	27908, 5.29.140	
License Plate Lamp(s)	24601		Company Identification Sign	27908, 5.29.120	
Stop Lamps	24603		Seat Belt Assemblies	5.29.140	
Backup Lamps	24606		Fire Extinguisher	5.29.140	
Reflectors	24607		Taximeter	5.29.140	
Turn Signals	24951		Vehicle/Driver Permit Holder	5.29.140	
Brake Systems	26451-26454		Passenger Compartment Light	5.29.140	
Glass	26701		Vehicle ID Number - Exterior	5.29.170	
Windshield Wipers	26707		Local Map	5.29.300	
Mirrors	26709		Triangle Flare Kit	5.29.300.17	
Defrosters	26712		First Aid Kit	5.29.300.17	
Horn	27000		Flashlight	5.29.300.17	
Exhaust System	27150				

RECOMMENDED REPAIRS	DATE CORRECTED	Licensed Garage Stamp
I/We state that the items inspected are in <input type="checkbox"/> safe or <input type="checkbox"/> unsafe operating condition.		BAR#
Date	Mechanic's Signature A	

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
Business License: ←	Auto Insurance: ←	Meter Seal Expires: ↓	Driver's License: →	NEXT INSPECTION: ← B	
DMV Registration:	General Liability:		Taxi Driver's Permit:	STICKER ISSUED VALID THRU END OF THE MONTH:	
PREVIOUS STICKER	Police Technician Findings/Comments following inspection: <input type="checkbox"/> Cab in compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Items out of compliance/need of attention – See below			Police Tech Initials	Police Tech Initials
	NOTICE TO SBPD Officers: Check for compliance: D →				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Police Tech verified items were corrected. Initial: _____ Date: _____			Date	Date

DRIVERS: Carry a copy of this paper in your vehicle at all times.

Santa Barbara Municipal Code 5.29.140(D): “All taxis must be inspected every four (4) months....”

A = This area lists the expiration dates for the company's business license, DMV vehicle registration, auto and general liability insurance policies, meter seal inspection, CA Driver's License, and the taxi driver permit (if it's a company-owned cab, it will say "N/A"). Use the expiration dates in these fields to determine whether the taxi may be out of compliance (eg. If the date listed in the "DMV Registration" field is expired, ask the driver to show you an updated vehicle Registration; if the meter is listed as expired, ask for proof that it has been recently inspected; etc.)

B = The taxi must be re-inspected by the date listed in this box. If that date has passed and the driver cannot produce an updated Inspection Sheet, the taxi is out of compliance.

C = This section indicates which month and year stickers were most recently issued for each taxicab. The date-stickers on the circular decal on the back of each cab should match the most recent date listed in this section.

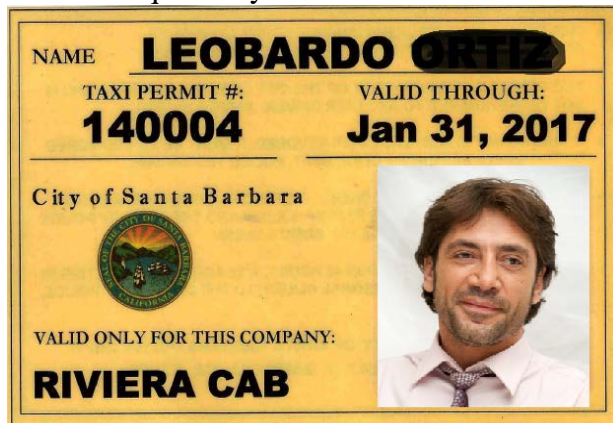
Rogue drivers may steal date stickers and/or circular decals off of valid cabs and put them onto the rogue taxis. The Inspection Sheet provides documentation as to what sticker, if any, a cab should have. If a cab has no sticker and the driver claims it was stolen, ask the driver for the Inspection Sheet. If the sticker was stolen, this section will show what sticker was issued. Do not cite the driver if the sheet shows a current sticker was issued. However, if the driver cannot produce an Inspection Sheet showing that a current sticker was issued, you may cite the driver based on a review of all the expiration dates on this sheet. There is always a reason that a sticker isn't issued. The most common reasons (which can be verified by the dates in section "A"): the cab needs another inspection; the DMV registration has expired; the meter needs re-certification; insurance is expired; or the driver's permit or Driver's License is expired.

There are 3 columns in section "C," each column including a field for the month of the sticker issued, the Police Technician initials, and the date the sticker was issued. It is not uncommon for drivers to have to return for multiple stickers within the 4-month inspection period due to expiring items listed on the Inspection Sheet. For example: If a mechanical inspection was done today and the updated Inspection Sheet presented to us, we would normally issue a sticker valid for 4 months. However, if the DMV registration expires in one month, our office would only issue a one-month sticker, then when the driver brings in proof of updated vehicle registration, we would issue a sticker for the remaining 3 months. Information for the first sticker issued is listed in the first column, and each subsequent sticker is listed in the adjoining columns.

D = If during the inspection the Police Technician discovers any anomalies, unusual circumstances, or noteworthy issues (equipment missing or damaged; top light not verified at inspection; permit not properly displayed, etc), the Police Technician will make a note to officers in this section, advising them what to be on the lookout for.

TAXI DRIVER REQUIREMENTS:

Per SBMC §5.29.180.A. “It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle regulated pursuant to this Chapter unless such person obtains a City public vehicle driver’s permit in addition to those motor vehicle driver’s licenses required by the State of California.”



Here is a sample taxicab driver permit:

The driver’s permit must always be posted in full view of passengers when a taxicab is in operation. Many drivers who don’t renew their permits continue to drive. They will often continue to display the expired permit, placing it so that it is partially obstructed and the expiration date is blocked from view.

Common SBMC violations for taxicab drivers:

- Operating a taxicab without a City-issued permit: §5.5.29.180.A.
- Failing to properly display driver’s permit in full view of passengers: §5.29.140.C.1.

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE TAXICAB PROGRAM

Personal Vehicles: Many taxi drivers use their taxi as a personal vehicle when off duty. If citing for any of the above violations, be sure that the taxicab is in operation as a taxi, not a personal vehicle. (Note that many drivers who are caught violating a law will claim that they are off duty and the people in their vehicles are friends. There are a number of ways to determine the truth of those claims, including checking to see if the meter is running; asking passengers if they know the driver personally and whether they are paying for the ride; checking the manifest to see when the driver is listed as being on duty.

Other Municipal Code violations:

- Refusal to take a passenger a short distance (§5.29.300.Q) – No driver may refuse a fare unless it’s apparent that the person poses a threat to the driver or the person is unable to pay the fare. Despite that, many drivers refuse to take passengers who only want to go a short distance because they’d rather hold out for a longer drive which results in a larger fare.
- Loading or unloading passengers in a crosswalk, intersection, or in a manner that impedes traffic – (§5.29.300.G)
- Charging a fare based on number of passengers (§5.29.115.A) – Drivers cannot charge more for multiple passengers. Rates may never be based on passenger count.

Vehicle Code violations: Please use the appropriate VC section when citing for these common taxicab violations, or any noted violations of the Vehicle Code:

- parking in a red zone
- impeding traffic
- speeding.