

TITLE VI - REGULATION OF BUSINESS AND VOCATIONS

CHAPTER 164
TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES

164.01 Purpose	164.09 License Contents
164.02 Definitions	164.10 Denial and Appeal
164.03 License Required	164.11 Financial Responsibility
164.04 Exemptions	164.12 License Not Transferable
164.05 Application for License	164.13 Displaying License and Rates
164.06 License Fees	164.14 Revocation of License
164.07 Qualifications for License	164.15 Duty to Carry
164.08 Investigation and Report	

164.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the operation of taxicab and limousine services originating within the City limits for the protection of the public convenience, health, safety and welfare.

164.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Limousine" means a motor vehicle that is used on the streets of the City for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire and that follows no regular time schedule and no regular route, and not regulated by the Iowa Department of Transportation.
2. "Operator" means any person, whether or not said person is the owner of a taxi or limousine, that will profit financially by the operation of a taxi or limousine, but does not include a person hired to drive the vehicle.
3. "Taxicab" means any motor vehicle regularly engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire and not operated on a fixed route or schedule and operated with a meter, and having a seating capacity of not more than eight passengers.

164.03 LICENSE REQUIRED. No person shall operate any taxicab or limousine where service originates on the streets of the City without a valid license for each taxicab or limousine.

164.04 EXEMPTIONS. For purposes of this chapter, those vehicles owned and operated by hospitals, hotels, motels, schools and other boarding places for the purposes of transporting patients, students or patrons between the hospitals, school, hotel, motel or boarding place and another point, auto repair shops for the purpose of transporting patrons between the auto repair shop and another point, ambulances

and other emergency vehicles, and public transit vehicles are excluded from the provisions of this chapter.

164.05 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. Application for a license shall be made on forms furnished by the City. Each application form shall be complete and shall be accompanied by the nonrefundable license fee as provided in this chapter and filed with the City Clerk. The license application shall contain the following:

1. The full name of the taxicab or limousine business, the street address of the premises for which the application is being made, and all telephone numbers where the taxicab or limousine business will be conducted.
2. The full name, address, telephone number, date of birth and social security number of the applicant, whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony as well as any aliases by which the applicant has been or is currently known.
3. The type of business entity such as sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation.
4. The name of the owner of the building where such taxicab or limousine business will be located.
5. Copies of any lease or rental agreement governing the applicant's right in said building.
6. A sworn statement that the contents of the application are true and that the applicant is of good moral character.
7. The signature of the applicant or applicants.

164.06 LICENSE FEES. The license fee shall be established by resolution of Council and shall be prorated quarterly. The license shall commence on January 1st or on the date the operations are started, if later, and shall terminate on the following December 31st, and must be renewed each succeeding year.

164.07 QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE. Each company filing applications with the office of the City Clerk for a license shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Provide minimum of one qualified licensed driver not less than 18 years of age.

2. Provide a minimum of one qualified licensed operable vehicle in safe and sanitary condition.
3. Met all applicable zoning ordinance regulations and other applicable City regulations.
4. Keep a daily activity log listing the date, time, trip origination address and trip destination address. The activity logs must be available for inspection by and upon request of the Chief of Police or his designee. The logs must be maintained for a period of one year.

164.08 INVESTIGATION AND REPORT. Upon receiving an application, the Chief of Police or his designee shall provide a recommendation concerning the character and reputation of a taxicab license applicant. No vehicle shall obtain a license, or be operated as a limousine or taxicab without passing an inspection by the Chief of Police or his authorized representative.

164.09 LICENSE CONTENTS. A license shall contain the signature of the Clerk, date of issuance, the period for which the license is valid and appropriate information contained in the application.

164.10 DENIAL AND APPEAL. In the event that an application is denied, the City Clerk shall notify the applicant by mail. The decision of the Clerk to deny the issuance of a license shall be subject to appeal to the City Council by the applicant.

164.11 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. Before beginning operation of any taxi or limousine, the operator shall file with the Clerk evidence of financial responsibility in the minimum amount required by the Code of Iowa, Chapter 321A, to cover possible liabilities arising out of the operations of each licensed vehicle.

164.12 LICENSE NOT TRANSFERABLE. Each taxi or limousine license shall be issued for one specific taxi or limousine only and shall not be transferable from vehicle to vehicle or to a different operator. The operator shall notify the Clerk when a licensed vehicle is withdrawn from service, and the Clerk shall refund a pro rata share of the license fee when a license is surrendered.

164.13 DISPLAYING LICENSE AND RATES. A taxi operator shall display within the taxi, in full view of passengers, the taxi license and a schedule of rates. No driver of a licensed vehicle shall permit more passengers to be carried than the rated seating capacity of the vehicle.

164.14 REVOCATION OF LICENSE. The Council may revoke or suspend any license issued under this chapter for the following reasons:

1. **Fraudulent Statements.** The operator has made fraudulent statements in the application for the license or in the conduct of the business.
2. **Violation of Law or Ordinance.** The operator has substantially violated the requirements of this chapter or of the State motor vehicle laws.
3. **Operation as to Endanger Safety, Health or Welfare.** The operator has conducted the business in a manner that substantially endangers the public safety, health, welfare, order or morals.

The Council must conduct a hearing before revoking or suspending a license. The operator shall be given notice of the hearing at least five (5) and not more than thirty (30) days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall be in writing and shall be served personally or as required for personal service by the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and the reasons for the intended revocation or suspension.

164.15 DUTY TO CARRY. No driver shall refuse or neglect to convey any orderly person or person, upon request, unless previously engaged, or unless the driver is unable. If said services cannot be rendered within a reasonable time, they shall then notify the prospective passengers how long it will be before the call can be answered and give the reason therefor.

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