Passenger Transportation Board
MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

Eco-friendly taxis

Context

Climate change is a significant priority for the Board and government. The scale of the climate emergency demands urgent action.

The Climate Change Accountability Act and 2021 Ministerial Order set the Province's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions targets at 40% by 2030, with 27% to 32% for the transportation sector of the economy.

The Province's climate action plan, sets out the pathways to achieving these targets. Key actions for the transportation sector include:

1. Accelerating the switch to zero-emission vehicles (ZEV)
2. Increasing shifts to energy efficient modes of transportation
3. Improving vehicle efficiency
4. Reducing distance travelled
5. Using clean fuels
6. Expanding BC's public charging network

The Board is committed to supporting the government's climate change priorities through the regulation of the passenger transportation industry as referenced in the May 2023 News and Updates. Details about relevant initiatives and programs that can be accessed by the passenger transportation industry are identified there.

The Board’s eco-friendly taxi policy is focused specifically on taxis. Eco-friendly taxis are already used in many parts of B.C., and this policy is intended to encourage and support increased use of these vehicles throughout the province.

Applicability

- This policy applies to taxi licensees

Policy

When an applicant seeks to start or expand a fleet of taxis, the Board has the authority to apply eco-friendly criteria to an application.

If the Board approves an increase in the supply of taxis in Metro Vancouver or the Capital Regional District (CRD), all conventional taxis must be eco-friendly vehicles.

The Board may also require the use of eco-friendly taxis in other areas of the province. Before issuing a decision, the Board will advise an applicant of its intent to apply the policy. The applicant will have an opportunity to respond.

For the purposes of the Board’s policy, eco-friendly taxis will be a 2006 model or newer that meets combined fuel consumption rating (CFCR) requirements. Appendix A provides more details regarding the definition of eco-friendly taxis, combined fuel consumption rating (CFCR) requirements, and other technical matters pertaining to application of the policy.

Under this policy, electric vehicles meet the Board’s criteria for an eco-friendly taxi, as their operation does not produce emissions.

Legislation

28 (3) The board may establish terms and conditions that apply to a special authorization included in a licence, if issued, including, without limitation, terms and conditions respecting any of the following…

Related topics:

- Board forms
- Natural Resources Canada database