

August 3, 2021

Vehicles For Hire Bylaw Implementation

On September 1, 2021, the *Vehicle for Hire Bylaw 3644/2020* will replace the *Taxi Business Bylaw no. 3282/2001* and the *Limousine and Sedan Bylaw no. 3394/2007*. This bylaw governs any Vehicle For Hire, which includes Taxi, Accessible Taxi, Transportation Network Companies (such as Uber), Limousines and Designated Driver Services.

1. Who is required to have a licence?

There are three types of licences under the bylaw:

- **Driver for Hire Licences** are required by Taxi drivers, Accessible Taxi drivers, Limousine drivers, Designated drivers, and Transportation Network (ride share) Drivers
- **Brokerage Licences** are required for Taxi, Limousine, Transportation Network companies, and Designated Driver operations
- **Taxi Licence Plates** are required by taxis and accessible taxis.

2. What are the main changes and requirements for drivers for hire?

All taxi, accessible taxi, limousine, transportation network and designated drivers will be required to obtain an annual Driver for Hire Licence under this bylaw. Application criteria for a Driver for Hire licence includes:

- Police Information check dated within 180 days of application
- 5 Year Driver Abstract within 60 days of application
- Proof of a valid Class 1, 2 or 4 Alberta Operator's licence
- A letter of employment
- Payment of the \$100 fee

3. What are the main changes for Brokerages?

All Brokerages will be required to obtain an annual Brokerage Licence under this bylaw. Application criteria for a Brokerage licence include:

- A listing of the number of vehicles
- Payment of the fee (fees are dependant on number of vehicles in the fleet and range from \$380 to \$2,500)
- A copy of the business name registration from Corporate Registries, if applicable
- For Transportation Network Companies, proof of Provincial Approval for operations in Alberta
- For taxis and limousines: each vehicle will need recent mechanical, insurance and registration provided

4. What is the difference between an Independent Driver Owner and a Brokerage?

An Independent Driver Owner is a small Brokerage that has two vehicles or less. An independent owner is also a driver for hire that uses a fleet vehicle for their business.

A Brokerage has three or more vehicles. The owner of the Brokerage is not necessarily a driver for hire.

5. How do I apply for a license?

Applications for Driver for Hire or Brokerage licenses are available on the City website at www.reddeer.ca/VehiclesForHire or can be picked up at City Hall.

6. What happens to my existing taxi or limo license?

Existing licences, issued under the Taxi Business Bylaw or Limousine and Sedan Bylaw will be honoured until December 31, 2021, or until the license expires, whichever is sooner.

Valid Brokerage or Driver for Hire licences will be required on January 1, 2022 as outlined in the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw.

7. How much does a licence cost?

There are two types of licenses under the bylaw that have fees associated with their approval:

- **Driver for Hire Licenses** cost \$100 for a 12-month term.
- **Brokerage License** fees vary based on the number of vehicles, and can range from \$380 to \$2,500.

8. Who does the Vehicles for Hire bylaw apply to?

The bylaw applies to the operation of Vehicles for Hire (taxi, limousine and ride sharing) and Designated Driver Services.

The bylaw does **not** apply to any of the following:

- a municipal transit service vehicle
- a school bus used to convey students to and from school
- an emergency vehicle
- a funeral hearse
- a courtesy vehicle in association with a vehicle repair shop where a customer is driven to a predetermined destination
- any service where the passenger is driven without a fee, or compensation of any sort, in his or her own vehicle
- a vehicle used for carpooling where the only compensation is a reimbursement for out of pocket expenses directly related to the transportation
- a vehicle carrying passengers who pay a fare or fee for the service where the passenger is picked up outside the city
- a vehicle used in providing care to clients who require personal assistance with activities of daily living where:
 - the arrangement and provision of that transportation is not the primary business of the person providing the service; and
 - no compensation is directly charged or collected for the provision of the transportation portion of the service being provided

9. Where can I find a full copy of the bylaw?

The Vehicles for Hire bylaw is available on the City website at www.reddeer.ca/bylaws.

10. What do these changes mean to me as a customer?

The Vehicles for Hire bylaw was developed to improve safety for both passengers and drivers. Under the new bylaw, all drivers are required to submit criminal record checks and driver's abstracts to ensure safety for passengers using vehicle for hire services. Customers will notice a few differences:

- Taxi rates set by the City are now only minimum rates. Taxi meters will be visible and taxis will post their rates inside the vehicles visible to the passenger.
- All other Vehicles for Hire will either have you agree to rates via an app or contract in advance.
- All Vehicle for Hire drivers must display their approved Driver for Hire Licence/identification badges where it is visible to passengers.
- All Vehicles for Hire will have clear identifiable markings to demonstrate which Broker they are working for, and these will be visible from outside the vehicle.

11. Where do I voice my concerns on the condition or service provided?

You are encouraged to provide feedback to the Brokerages so they can make appropriate business decisions to improve their customer service. Concerns related to safety, driver conduct could also be reported to The City, Inspections and Licensing department at licensing@reddeer.ca

12. The City proposed five new taxi plates and two new accessible taxi plates with the new bylaw implementation. What is the process for those?

The City will host a draw for these new plates in 2021. We will share more details with the community once applications are available. Interested parties are welcome to email licensing@reddeer.ca with your interest and contact information.

For more information:

- www.reddeer.ca/VehiclesForHire
- licensing@reddeer.ca
- 403-342-8182