

CITY OF SURREY

BY-LAW NO. 4996

As amended by By-laws No. 8698, 8821, [10568](#), 10748, [11022](#), 11213, [11329](#), [11451](#), [12268](#), and [13005](#).

A By-law for licensing and regulating the owners and drivers of vehicles for hire in the City of Surrey.

**Amended
B/L [12268](#)
04/25/94**

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THIS IS A CONSOLIDATED BYLAW PREPARED BY THE CITY OF SURREY FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY. THE CITY DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS CONSOLIDATION IS CURRENT. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSON USING THIS CONSOLIDATION TO ENSURE THAT IT ACCURATELY REFLECTS CURRENT BYLAW PROVISIONS.

The City Council of the City of Surrey, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This By-law may be cited for all purposes as the "Surrey Vehicles For Hire By-law, 1976, No. 4996."

2. INTERPRETATION

In the construction and for the purpose of this By-law, the following works and terms shall have the respective meanings hereby assigned to them unless repugnant to the context hereof:

"Cab" - means a vehicle for hire, having a seating capacity of not more than seven (7) passengers, and used for the transportation or conveyance of persons or property for hire.

"Chauffeur's Permit" - means a permit issued by the City, required to be held by a chauffeur, pursuant to the provisions of this By-law.

"Chief Constable" - means the Officer in Charge, for the time being, of the Surrey Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. **Amended by By-law 8698**

"COUNCIL" means The Council of the the City of Surrey;

"HIGHWAY" includes every highway within the meaning of the "Highway Act", and every road, street, lane or right-of-way designed or intended for use by the public for the passage of vehicles, and every private place or passageway to which the public, for the purpose of the

parking, including handicapped parking, has access or is invited; and includes the roadway, shoulder, boulevard, ditch and sidewalk area and whatever lands lie between the property lines of the highway;

"INSPECTOR" means the City Solicitor, or his designate of the City of Surrey; **Amended BL 13005 06/23/97**

"CITY" means the City of Surrey;

"PARKING LOT" means an area of land, or land and building, which is used for the purpose of providing parking facilities for motor vehicles but does not include an area where such parking is an ancillary use to a single family dwelling on the same area of land. **Inserted BL 11329 06/15/92**

"SAFETY CHAINS" means the device which couples a vehicle in tow to the tow-car and which is firmly attached to a structurally adequate integral part of the frame of each vehicle and such connection shall be a closed auxiliary coupling device consisting of a chain or metal cable equal in strength to the principal coupling device; **By-law 8698 Amended by By-law 8821**

"STRING LIGHTS" means accessory lights hooked up to any vehicle in tow to ensure the operation of tail lights, brake lights and turn signals of the vehicle being towed;

"TOW-CAR" means a vehicle which has been designed or altered and equipped to transport upon a highway undamaged, damaged, disabled or abandoned vehicles together with personal effects and/or cargo by towing or hoisting with a certified capacity crane, hoist, tow bar, tow dolly or other wrecker equipment certified for the purpose intended by a Professional Engineer licensed by the Province of British Columbia.

3. CHAUFFEUR'S PERMIT

(a) (i) Every person who drives, operates or is in charge of a cab or a tow-car shall hold a valid chauffeur's permit issued by the Chief Constable, and no owner or agent shall permit a person to drive, operate or be in charge of a cab or tow-car unless he holds a valid chauffeur's permit issued by the Chief Constable. **Amended BL 11329 06/15/92**

(ii) Valid vehicle registrations records for each individual taxi cab must be presented and verified by the License Inspector. No license will be issued unless there is a valid registration for each and every individual taxi cab. This requirement also includes limousine services. **Inserted By-law 11022 8/26/91**

(b) Application for a [chauffeur's permit](#) shall be made in person by the applicant to the [Chief Constable](#) on the form provided as Schedule "A" hereto, and every applicant for a chauffeur's permit shall indicate on his application his name, home address, phone number, birth-date, birth-place, height, weight, complexion, colour of hair and eyes, driver's license number, social security number, identifying marks such as scars, tattoos, next of kin and their address and record of criminal conviction and driving record, if any, within the preceding five year period.

(c) No [chauffeur's permit](#) shall be issued, under this By-law, until the applicant therefore shall have satisfied the [Chief Constable](#), upon his full enquiry, that the applicant is in all respects a fit and proper person to hold such chauffeur's permit.

(d) No person who operates a [tow-car](#) or [cab](#) shall, because of race, colour or creed, discriminate against any member of the public while carrying on the business operation.

(e) Every person holding a [chauffeur's permit](#), under this By-law, shall, upon changing his resident address, notify the [Chief Constable](#) thereof, in writing, within two (2) days, giving his new resident address.

**Amended
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

(f) Every person holding [chauffeur's permit](#) shall comply with all applicable provisions of this and any other By-law of the [City](#).

(g) Where the person holding a [chauffeur's permit](#) under this By-law, for any reason, in the opinion of the [Chief Constable](#) is unfit to act as a chauffeur, the Chief Constable, upon proof to his satisfaction of such unfitness, may suspend or cancel the said chauffeur's permit.

(h) Where an applicant for a [chauffeur's permit](#) is refused, or a chauffeur's permit is suspended or cancelled by the [Chief Constable](#), the Chief Constable shall within twenty-four (24) hours after such refusal, suspension, or cancellation notify the applicant or holder in writing of the said refusal, suspension or cancellation, stating the grounds therefore, and an appeal shall lie to [Council](#) from the said refusal, suspension, or cancellation.

(i) Every person who holds a [chauffeur's permit](#) issued under this By-law shall have the said chauffeur's permit in his possession at all times while driving or operating a [cab](#) or [tow-car](#) on any [highway](#), and shall produce the permit for inspection at any time on demand of any peace officer or constable.

(j) The number of cabs which may be licensed in the [City](#) of Surrey shall not exceed 262.

**B/L 11213
04/16/92**

4. (a) No person shall operate a [tow-car](#), or carry on, engage in, own or operate a tow-car business, or permit a person to operate a tow-car or engage in or operate a tow-car business in the City of Surrey without first having obtained from the City of Surrey a Vehicle for Hire Plate therefor and without having paid the plate fee prescribed in Schedule "B" of this By-law. **Amended BL 11329 06/15/92**

(b) Chauffeur Permits issued under the provisions of this By-law shall be issued every three (3) years so as to terminate on the 30th day of April next succeeding the date of issue. **Amended BL 10568 6/25/90 BL 11451 09/14/92**

5. The granting of Vehicle for Hire Plates and Chauffeur Permits as herein provided shall be conditional upon the strict compliance by the holder of this and all other By-laws applicable to the granting of Vehicle for Hire Plates and Chauffeur Permits in the [City](#) and any Provincial Statutes relative to the safe operation of cabs or tow-cars; and non-compliance with such provisions shall be deemed to be a breach of the conditions under which such Vehicle for Hire Plate or [Chauffeur's Permit](#) was granted and shall render such Vehicle for Hire Plate and Chauffeur's Permit subject to revocation by the [Council](#).

6. All applications for vehicle for hire plates shall be made to the [Inspector](#) on an application form to be provided for that purpose.

7. Every person to whom a Vehicle for Hire Plate has been granted shall, at all reasonable times permit the [Chief Constable](#) or the [Inspector](#) to enter any place or premises to inspect the motor vehicle, or its accessories, in respect of which such Vehicle for Hire Plate has been issued.

8. No Vehicle for Hire Plate or renewal thereof with respect to the operation of a [tow-car](#) shall be granted unless the holder

(a) obtains, and at all times during the term of the validity of the plate, maintains in force with one or more insurance companies, a policy of insurance acceptable to the [City](#) covering comprehensive, public liability and property damage insurance covering each [tow-car](#) used in the said business in the amount of one million dollars issued in the Province of British Columbia;

(b) files a copy of the insurance required in Section 8 (a) with the [Inspector](#); and

(c) maintains the required insurance during the validity of the plate and thirty days thereafter.

9. No license or renewal license with respect to the operation of a [tow-car](#) business shall be granted unless the licensee

(a) produces evidence that each motor vehicle owned or operated by or through the business is licensed as a [tow-car](#) pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Act, and insured as a tow-car pursuant to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia Act & Regulations;

(b) produces evidence that each motor vehicle is licensed under the Commercial Vehicle Licensing By-law, 1983, No. [7778](#) as amended from time to time;

(c) shall have a comprehensive garage policy covering the business operation as required by the Insurance (Motor Vehicle) Act; and

(d) produces evidence in writing that the motor vehicle/s are either factory constructed or have been certified by a Professional Engineer, licensed in the Province of British, indicating that the motor vehicle/s are structurally safe and meet all the required safety regulations of this By-law and appropriate Provincial statutes and regulations thereto pertaining to such vehicles.

Safety Regulations

10. Every person who drives, operates, or is in charge of a [tow-car](#), or owner or agent who permits a person to drive or operate a tow-car, shall have the tow-car equipped with and use the following safety equipment whilst operating in the City of Surrey: **Amended
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

(a) "[string lights](#)" are to be hooked up to the extreme rear of the load in tow and displayed at a height not less than 38cm (14.5 in.) or greater than 1.85m (6 ft.); and

(b) [safety chains](#) attached to an integral part of the [tow-car](#), under the tow sling and then from a ring to an integral part on each side of the towed vehicle. **Amended
by By-law
8821**

11. (a) The [Inspector](#) shall provide to each person being issued a Vehicle for Hire plate, a plate and corresponding decal for that [tow-car](#) and the plate and decal shall not be used on any other tow-car; such plate and decal shall remain the property of the [City](#); and on cancellation or suspension of the tow-car license corresponding thereto, or represented thereby, such person shall forthwith return such plate and decal to the [Inspector](#).

(b) The plate shall be mounted on a clearly visible place on the front of each [tow-car](#) and the corresponding decal shall be placed in the rear window of the tow-car as designated by the [Inspector](#).

(c) No person shall exhibit any plate or decal pursuant to this By-law on any [tow-car](#) other than the approved tow-car to which that plate or decal has **Amended
BL [11329](#)**

been issued.

06/15/92

(d) In case of loss, mutilation or destruction of any plate or decal furnished pursuant to this section, upon receipt of a written application accompanied by proof satisfactory to the [Inspector](#) of such loss, mutilation or destruction, the Inspector may issue a duplicate plate and decal, the fee for which shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00).

12. (a) A person to whom a [tow-car](#) business license has been granted and who conducts as part of the business a towing and storage operation, including the operation of a private impound lot, shall locate the impound lot lawfully within the City of Surrey. Any records required to be kept by this By-law shall be kept at a location in Surrey approved by the [Inspector](#) and shall not be changed from that location without the approval of the Inspector and such approval shall be requested, in writing, indicating the address, or any change thereof, of the premises where such person keeps his books and records of the operation of his business.

Amended
BL [11329](#)
05/16/92

These books or records shall be produced at any reasonable time for inspection on demand by the [Inspector](#) or Peace Officer upon their request.

Inserted
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92

(b) Every driver of a [tow-car](#) shall keep a daily record of all trips made by him as a tow-car driver, and such record shall contain the reason for the tow, the date, time, origin and destination of each towing contract, as well as the name and address of the owner of the vehicle being towed and the towing fee charged.

Every person owning or operating a [tow-car](#), or permitting a tow-car to be operated in the City of Surrey shall be responsible for the keeping of these records which shall be produced at any reasonable time for inspection on demand by the [Inspector](#) or Peace Officer upon their request.

Inserted
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92

(c) No driver of a [tow-car](#) shall attend at the scene of a vehicle accident whether by coincidence or otherwise, unless he has been requested to do so by the owner or driver of any motor vehicle involved in that accident, or by an attending peace officer.

(d) Every driver of a [tow-car](#) shall before he tows any vehicle from the scene of an accident, supply the owner or driver of the vehicle being towed a card which identifies the driver and towing company by whom such driver is employed. Each such card shall be signed by the driver of the tow-car and shall state clearly the destination to which the vehicle will be towed; provided however, that where the owner or driver of a vehicle is injured or has been removed from the scene of the accident, such card shall be given to an attending peace officer, and no driver of a tow-car should deliver a vehicle to any destination other than the one stated on the card referred to in subsection 12(d).

(e) Every driver of a [tow-car](#) which has been engaged to tow a vehicle from the scene of an accident shall clear the [highway](#) of all broken glass and other debris resulting from such accident so that the said broken glass and other debris shall not be hazardous to any person or property of any person using the highway.

(f) No driver of any [tow-car](#) who has been requested to tow a vehicle from the scene of an accident shall solicit or suggest a specific destination for the vehicle being towed.

(g) Every [tow-car](#) shall have painted or otherwise permanently affixed on each side of the [cab](#) the business name shown on the City of Surrey business license application, or if no such name, the name of the owner of the tow-car and the telephone number of the firm as they are shown on the City of Surrey business license application and such name and number shall be printed in lettering not less than ten (10) centimetres in height and further; the name of the [City](#) or the common name applied to the area of the City in which the company or person operates from and such names and numbers shall be printed in lettering not less than five (5) centimetres in height and all such lettering and numbers shall be kept clear, clean and distinguishable at all times.

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(h) Every [tow-car](#) shall have painted or otherwise permanently affixed on each side of the [cab](#) the licensed gross vehicle weight of the tow-car in lettering not less than five (5) centimetres high and shall be kept clear, clean and distinguishable at all times.

13. (a) Rates charged by [tow-car](#) businesses, owners, or operators for impounding, storage, and "dropping" of vehicles shall not exceed those rates set out in Schedule "C" of this By-law as amended from time to time.

(b) Storage fees are calculated for each twenty-four (24) hour period from the time the vehicle is first brought into the storage yard.

**Amdended
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

(c) Upon payment of the impoundment fees to the agent of the impoundment lot, the vehicle will be released to the owner, operator, or agent of the impounded vehicle.

14. No owner or operator of a [tow-car](#) shall remove any vehicle from any [parking lot](#) under any agreement with the owner, occupier, or operator thereof as the case may be unless at the time such agreement was made there was, and at the time such vehicle is towed away there are, tow away signs displayed on said parking lot.

**Amended
BL [11329](#)
06/16/92**

Such signs shall meet the following requirements:

(a) the name of the towing firm who will be removing any unauthorized vehicles from the property and the place to which they will be towed;

(b) the conditions under which the parking of any vehicles will be considered unauthorized;

(c) the telephone number of the firm that will be impounding vehicles from the property;

(d) a detailed site plan showing the proposed placement of signs must be submitted to and approved by the [Inspector](#) prior to any vehicles being towed or removed from the [parking lot](#);

**Amended
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

(e) all signs shall be made of a reflective material in order that they can be clearly visible at all times; and

(f) all signs shall be a minimum size of 35.5 centimetres (14 inches) x 50 centimetres (20 inches) with letters and numbers not less than 5 centimetres (2 inches) in height.

(g) Signs pursuant to this By-law shall be placed at all vehicle entrances and exits of the [parking lot](#).

**Inserted
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

15. No vehicle shall be towed without the owner's consent from a [parking lot](#) unless such vehicle is taken to an impoundment lot which is protected by a locked fence and has an attendant on duty at all times when there is a vehicle impounded in such impoundment lot.

**Amended
BL [11239](#)
06/15/92**

16. Where a [tow-car](#) operator has been requested by the owner of a property to tow a vehicle away pursuant to Section 15 of this By-law, and the vehicle is claimed by the owner or driver of the vehicle before the vehicle is actually removed from the [parking lot](#), the driver of the tow-car shall release the vehicle upon payment of a fee which shall not exceed those rates set out in Schedule "C" of this By-law as amended from time to time.

**Amended
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

17. Where a person to whom a [tow-car](#) license has been granted impounds a vehicle he shall

(a) immediately upon the vehicle's arrival at the impoundment lot or within one hour of the impounding of the vehicle, give notification to the [Chief Constable](#) of the fact of impoundment, the vehicle's full description and its license and vehicle identification numbers, and the location where the vehicle was impounded;

(b) if a vehicle remains unclaimed or uncollected for more than 1 (one) calendar day after impounding, send written notification to the registered owner thereof within the next 14 days if the vehicle is registered within British Columbia, or as expeditiously as possible if the vehicle is registered outside British Columbia;

(c) maintain a record of all impounded vehicles which remain unclaimed or uncollected for more than 14 days after impounding, including a full description of the vehicle and its license and vehicle identification numbers.

Penalty for Infraction

18. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this By-law or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention or in violation of any of the provisions of this By-law, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this By-law, or who does any act which violates any of the provisions of this By-law, commits an offence, and upon summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

**Amended
BL [11329](#)
06/15/92**

19. "The Motor Licensing By-law, 1928, No. 357" is hereby repealed."

READ A FIRST TIME on the 8th day of November, 1976.

READ A SECOND AND THIRD TIME on the 8th day of November, 1976.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal on the 15th day of November, 1976.

_____ "E. MCKITKA" _____ MAYOR
_____ "R. CHESTER" _____ CLERK

SCHEDULE A

APPLICATION FOR [CHAUFFEUR'S PERMIT](#)

TO: The Chief Constable

City of Surrey

14355 - 57 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3W 0V3

The undersigned hereby applies for a [Chauffeur's Permit](#) for a _____ supported by the following information, including a recent 2-3/4" x 3-1/4" identification size photograph.

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NO. SOCIAL INSURANCE NO.

VALID B.C. DRIVER'S LICENSE NO. CLASS

PRODUCED TO OFFICIAL

BIRTHDATE BIRTH PLACE

HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____ COMPLEXION

HAIR _____ EYES _____ SCARS _____

TATTOOS, ETC.

NEXT OF KIN

ADDRESS

RECORD OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS, IF ANY, DRIVING RECORD, IF ANY, DURING FIVE YEARS PRECEDING THIS APPLICATION

**Amended
B/L 10748
12/3/90**

NAME OF EMPLOYEE (Taxi Co.)

TOWING FIRM

SIGNED SIGNED

(Company Official's Signature)

(Applicant's Signature)

SCHEDULE "B"

Annual plate fee payable for each [tow-car](#) \$15.00

SCHEDULE "C"

PRIVATE IMPOUND FEES

	Vehicle Not Exceeding 5,000 kg. Licensed G.V.W.	Vehicles Exceeding 5,000 kg Licensed G.V.W.
Towing Fee	\$50.00	\$100.00
Storage Fee(per day)	\$6.50	\$10.00
Drop Fee(without incident)	\$30.00	\$30.00