

Instructions to Obtain Waiver of Vehicle Age Requirements (Taxis)

As required by 52 Pa. Code §29.314(d), **Vehicle and equipment requirements, Vehicle Age**, “Unless otherwise permitted by the Commission, a vehicle may not be operated in call and demand service which is more than 8 model years old.”

As soon as a new calendar year causes a vehicle not to meet the **eight-year age** requirement, that vehicle may **not** be used in transportation service unless the following steps have first occurred.

Application for Waiver of Vehicle Age Requirements.

The carrier must complete an application for waiver of vehicle age requirements. **If** the application is approved, a PUC Enforcement Officer (EO) will contact you to set a date for an inspection. Carriers should allow approximately 60 days for the application to be processed. Applications will be accepted beginning on July 1st of each year. We suggest that applications be filed no later than September 30th to ensure obtaining a waiver prior to December 31st.

Vehicle Inspection.

The vehicle must pass an inspection performed by a certified PA Inspection Mechanic and observed by a PUC EO. To pass the inspection, the vehicle must have **NO** defects found. Carriers should allow 30 days to schedule and receive the inspection. To ensure obtaining a waiver prior to December 31st, the inspection should be scheduled prior to November 30th.

Certificate of Waiver.

The carrier will receive a Certificate of Waiver signed by the Bureau of Transportation and Safety’s Director or Motor Carrier Division’s Chief of Enforcement. Carriers should allow 30 days for the official waiver to be issued.

The application process for a Certificate of Waiver requires that the following information must be filed, in addition to the application:

- (1) Reason and proof of a hardship that the carrier would encounter if permission is not given for an inspection and a newer vehicle must be purchased in order to comply with regulations (i.e. financial records).
- (2) List of Vehicles, including: Year, make, model and VIN# of the vehicle that the carrier is requesting to be inspected.
- (3) Proof of mileage (notarized affidavit or picture for each vehicle). High mileage, i.e. more than 200,000 miles on the odometer for taxicabs, will be considered a factor that weighs against the granting of an inspection for vehicles of nine or more model years of age. However, this presumption of a lack of fitness for a

- particular vehicle may be rebutted by the carrier by providing **evidence** that the vehicle is mechanically sound, passenger worthy, and aesthetically acceptable.
- (4) Proof of carrier's ownership of the vehicle (title, current registration card, notarized bill of sale, etc.).
 - (5) Specific reason as to why each vehicle is worthy of consideration for continued use in transportation service.
 - (6) Pictures of both sides, front and rear of the vehicle's exterior.
 - (7) Pictures of the vehicle's interior seats, dashboard and floor.
 - (8) Maintenance records for the previous year.
 - (9) Name, address and phone # of a certified inspection station for the inspection to occur. They must be agreeable to perform the inspection using a certified inspection mechanic, while a PUC EO observes. Additionally, the PUC EO will look at vehicle for passenger comfort and appearance, visual deficiencies (such as dents, gouges, taxi markings, etc.), and any other violations of PUC regulations.

Failure to provide **all** of the information requested above will result in denial of the application. The application and supporting information will be evaluated by the Motor Carrier Division and approval or disapproval of the application will be provided in writing within 60 days.

If the application for waiver of the 8-year age requirement is approved, the wheels-off inspection must be performed by a certified inspection mechanic at a certified inspection station of the carrier's choice. Scheduling of the inspection will be made with the carrier by the assigned EO.

The assigned EO must observe the inspection to determine if the vehicle is fit for public service.

A vehicle may not be inspected more than **once per year**.

The inspection must reveal **zero defects** to pass inspection. This includes the certified mechanic's inspection and the PUC EO's inspection for PUC passenger service.

If the inspection reveals any defects at the conclusion of the inspection, the vehicle will **not** be approved for service during that calendar year. The carrier must wait until the following calendar year, must complete another application for the 8-year vehicle age waiver, must pass an inspection, and must be approved for a waiver before the vehicle may be placed back in service.

If the vehicle passes the inspection, a Certificate of Waiver will be mailed to the carrier which lists the VIN# of the approved vehicle, the signature of the Chief or the Director, the expiration date of the waiver, and is stamped with the PUC Motor Carrier seal.

The waiver must be **carried on board the vehicle** at all times.

That vehicle will be permitted to be operated for the next calendar year, January 1st through December 31st.

Carriers are required to file an application for waiver of the 8-year vehicle age requirement each year.

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Transportation & Safety
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265
(717) 787-3834**

Application For Waiver of Taxi Vehicle Age Requirement

Please complete all parts of this application. Incomplete applications will be returned. All questions may be directed to the Motor Carrier Division's Compliance Office at (717) 787-3834.

1. **Name of Applicant/Carrier:**

PUC Authority Number A-_____

2. **Trade Name:**

3. **Physical Address** (do not use P.O. Box)

Street Address

City, State and Zip Code

Telephone Number

County

4. **Mailing Address** (if different from Physical Address)

Street Address

City, State and Zip Code

5. Reason and proof of a hardship that the carrier would encounter if permission for an inspection is not granted.

Verifying financial records (example: profit/loss statement) enclosed.

6. Year, Make, Model, and VIN# of each vehicle requested to be inspected.

7. Proof of mileage enclosed (provide at least one of the following):

Notarized affidavit

Picture of odometer - pictures must be on a compact disk (CD)

8. Proof of carrier's ownership of the vehicle(s) enclosed (provide at least one of the following):

Title

Current Registration Card

Notarized Bill of Sale

Other _____

9. Specific reason as to why each vehicle is worthy of consideration for continued use in transportation service.

VIN#

REASON

10. **Pictures of vehicle(s) enclosed (provide all of the below); digital pictures must be provided on a compact disk (CD):**
- Left side and right side of each vehicle's exterior**
 - Front and rear of the vehicle's exterior**
 - All interior seats**
 - Dashboard and floor**
11. **Maintenance records and copies of receipts or invoices for each vehicle for the previous year enclosed.**
12. **Name, address, and phone number of a certified inspection station for the inspection to occur.**

You must sign the following Verification of Application.

Verification of Application

This verification of the application must be completed and signed by the applicant appearing on Line 1 of the application, by the named individual, all partners (if a partnership), or the President or Secretary (if a corporation).

I/we hereby state that the statements made in this application are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

The undersigned understands that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 Relating to Unsworn Falsification to Authorities.

(Print Name and Title)

(Signature)

(Date)