

***RUNNING A TAXI OR
LIMOUSINE SERVICE
IN THE STATE OF
MAINE***

Our mailing address is:

BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES
MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES
OPERATING AUTHORITY UNIT
29 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0029

Our physical location is:

BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES
101 HOSPITAL STREET
AUGUSTA ME

Information on State of Maine
Requirements



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

START WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

If you are considering operating a taxi and/or a limousine business, the first step is to visit your town office. Some Maine communities have licensing requirements and other rules and regulations that must be observed.

The next step is to check with your local and regional airport officials. Airports may also have separate licensing requirements and/or regulations.

CALL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY

Insurance premiums are one of the most expensive things about operating for hire. Minimum liability insurance coverage amounts for an intrastate for-hire vehicle are based on the vehicle's passenger carrying capacity behind the driver's seat as designed by the manufacturer.

The following minimum liability insurance amounts apply to vehicles used in a taxi or limousine service to transport passengers for hire exclusively between points within the state (intrastate operation):

- A sedan that can carry no more than three passengers behind the driver's seat requires a minimum of \$125,000 combined single limit (CSL) liability coverage or split limit liability coverage of \$50,000 per person, \$100,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, and \$25,000 for property damage.
- A van or limousine designed to carry four to seven passengers behind the driver's seat requires a minimum of \$300,000 CSL liability coverage.
- A van or limousine designed to carry eight to fifteen passengers behind the driver's seat requires \$750,000 CSL liability coverage.

A vehicle used in a taxi or limousine service to transport passengers for hire between points within the state and points outside the state (interstate operation) with a seating capacity of 15 passengers or less (including the driver) requires \$1,500,000 CSL liability coverage.

For vehicles designed to carry sixteen or more passengers behind the driver's seat, please call the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), Operating Authority Unit for information on 'Running a Bus Service in the State of Maine'.

The Secretary of State requires a JB filing (State of Maine Insurance Certificate For-Hire Passenger Vehicle) with your liability insurance information be on file with the BMV, Operating Authority Unit before you can register your for-hire vehicle. The name on the JB filing(s) must be the legal name under which the taxi/limousine will be operated. Example: JOHN DOE D/B/A JOHN'S TAXI. An incorporated business will operate under the legal business name. Example: JOHN DOE LIMOUSINE SERVICE INC. The legal name and physical address on the vehicle registration must exactly match the legal name and physical address appearing on the JB filing(s). The JB filing requires a State of Maine form. The Operating Authority Unit can provide these forms to your insurance company if necessary.

Since the JB filings are completed by the underwriting insurance companies and not your agent, they may take awhile to arrive. The form(s) may be faxed, E-mailed or mailed to the Operating Authority Unit. To save you time, it is suggested that you contact the Operating Authority Unit to make sure that your JB filing(s) is on file with the Bureau before you attempt to register your vehicle.

GETTING HIRE PLATES

Taxis, vans and limousines operated for hire are required to have HIRE plates (class TX) on the vehicle(s). The current registration fee for HIRE plates is \$70.00. Vanity HIRE plates are available for an additional \$25.00 charge for up to seven characters.

You must register your vehicle at your nearest Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch office after paying your excise tax at your town office.

OTHER INFORMATION

Maine does not have a chauffeur's license or any other special license requirements for operating a for-hire vehicle with fewer than 15 passengers other than a Class C license. Interstate or foreign operation may require a special license from a given state or country. Please contact the state(s) or country that you plan to travel through.

For information regarding taxi weights and measures, contact the Department of Agriculture, Quality Assurance & Regulations Division at (207) 287-3841.

For-hire carriers that operate vehicles carrying more than eight passengers (including the driver) will need to:

- Obtain a USDOT number from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).
- Comply with the requirements of the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Agreement if operating interstate.

Interstate for hire operation requires federal operating authority (a Motor Carrier number) from FMCSA.

WHERE TO CALL

The FMCSA can be reached either via their website at <http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov> or by calling 1-800-832-5660.

Or you may call The Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Operating Authority Unit with any questions concerning insurance or operating authority requirements at (207) 624-9000 Ext. 52131. The fax number is (207) 622-5332.