

**City of Port Aransas  
Code of Ordinances  
Chapter 12 Licenses and Business Regulations  
Article VII. Vehicles for Hire  
Division 2. Taxis**

**Section 12-166. - Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Taxi* means an automobile that carries passengers for a fare.

*Touring bus* means a multi-passenger vehicle primarily used for conducting tours or providing transportation for tour groups for a fare.

**Section 12-167. - Permit required.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a taxi or touring vehicle originating within the corporate limits of the city without first securing a permit from the city.

**Section 12-168. - Terms of permit; fee.**

(a) The city secretary with concurrence of the city manager shall issue permits required herein subject to the following regulations and conditions:

1. The owner or the manager of the company operating the taxi or touring bus company shall make the application for a permit in their own or the company's name;
2. The applicant and all drivers of vehicles shall have and maintain a valid chauffeur driver's license of the state;
3. Applicant shall submit verification that all vehicles used in the proposed service have received valid safety inspections;
4. The applicant shall show compliance with all the insurance requirements covering public liability, property damage and collision insurance and other laws of the state governing the operation of vehicles for hire and all such state laws and regulations which are made a part of this article and any violations of them will be a violation of this article;
5. The applicant shall agree in writing in his application for a permit that no solicitation for business will be made at any place of business or entrance to place of business without the consent of the owner of the business. Breach of this agreement shall be a breach of this article;
6. The city manager or other authorized official shall not issue more permits than are reasonably necessary to meet the reasonable needs of the population of the city.
7. The maximum age of a vehicle is ten (10) years. Vehicles ten (10) years or older at the time of the passage of this ordinance [Ordinance 2009-04] may be retained until they are retired.
8. Company information - name, telephone number, and taxi unit number must be printed on each side and back side of the vehicle (minimum five-inch).
9. Fees must be posted inside each taxi. A picture identification of the driver, company information - name, phone number, address, city, must also be posted large enough for passengers to read.

10. Records required: The police department must retain a record of complaints that lead to convictions on the company and personnel regarding public safety. A limit of three (3) convictions in a six-month period or four (4) in a one-year period can lead to the revocation of their permit. Permit will remain revoked for a two-year period before they will be able to reapply.

(b) A street use fee, set by city council by resolution, must be paid by each company (not per taxi) and will be due on April 1 of each year. No permits will be issued unless and until such fee has been paid in full. Notwithstanding the above, the fee for the year 2010 (from January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010) shall be prorated. Said fee will not thereafter be pro-rated.

**Section 12-169. - Certain activities prohibited.**

The direct or indirect use of a taxi for assisting or abetting pandering or prostitution in any form is hereby prohibited.