

City of Portage la Prairie

FAQs – Local Vehicle for Hire

When do Local Vehicle for Hire (LVFH) licenses and permits need to be renewed?

LVFH businesses must renew their licenses annually and by Jan 1st of each year. LVFH driver's permits are renewed annually at the same time their Manitoba driver's license expires. Business licenses are renewed annually on their anniversary date.

LVFH vehicles are inspected annually and must be maintained in appearance and operating condition. Violations are subject to fines at any time during the year.

What signage is needed for a LVFH vehicle?

The vehicle must have signage on its exterior of a permanent nature. Signage, including magnetic professional signs, must identify the name of the LVFH business, should be visible to potential passengers and are recommended to be 5" letter height.

Temporary signage such as hand lettered cardboard paper taped to the vehicle's exterior is unacceptable and subject to fines.

The City provides a license holder for LVFH business licenses to be displayed and hung from the vehicle's rear-view mirror. The driver's permit includes the driver's picture is also displayed and visible to passengers.

A passenger safety notice must be displayed in the vehicle and visible to passengers. This notice is provided by the City to LVFH businesses for each registered vehicle.

Are exceptions made for LVFH drivers?

LVFH drivers must follow all rules of the Motor Vehicle Act and in addition, must not allow alcoholic beverages to be consumed by passengers or the driver in the vehicle. While alcohol must be transported in the LVFH, it must be stored in accordance with the requirements of the Manitoba Liquor Control and Lotteries Commission. The driver must be satisfied before transporting any passenger with correctly stored alcohol that the passenger is of the age of majority.

LVFH drivers will not eat, smoke or use cellular phones while driving and/or transporting passengers.

Does the City set passenger fare rates?

The City does not set these fares. Passengers should confirm the fare rate prior to embarking on their LVFH trip. Some LVFH businesses are shuttles who combine trips with other

passengers and may be an affordable option although these aren't usually the quickest way to reach your destination. Others have meters or set fares per trip and passenger.

Point to Point (PTP) or Ride Sharing Services require that passengers order and pay for their trip through an electronic application only. The LVFH business's app must provide identification of the driver and their vehicle on booking and for passengers to confirm they are entering the correct vehicle.

Can passengers book any LVFH for their trips in Portage?

Only LVFH businesses registered with the City of Portage la Prairie can operate within the City of Portage la Prairie for pick up of passengers. Other LVFH businesses licensed in another municipality can drop off passengers only in the City of Portage la Prairie.

What should passengers do if they feel unsafe in a LVFH?

If you believe the vehicle or driver you have contracted is not compliant with the LVFH by-law and traffic laws, please contact our offices. Various contact choices are provided for you. These are available on our web site and posted in each LVFH. For serious violations or threats to your safety, please contact the RCMP at 204-857-4445 or 911 as the severity of your situation warrants.

How can I be sure the vehicle is registered as a LVFH?

The City provides a current listing of registered license plates on its web site. If concerns, please review this listing. We would recommend you contact the city if you are aware of an unregistered LVFH vehicle is operating in our city.

I'm interested in starting a LVFH business. What are the fees to do so?

The fees and fines for LVFH businesses is available on the city's web site. Fines levied for driver's permit violations are levied against the LVFH business the driver is employed by.