



TAXI METERS AND ROOF SIGNS

In accordance with the *Passenger Transport Act 1994* Regulations each metropolitan taxi operated in the South Australia must be equipped with an approved roof sign and an approved taxi meter.

Taxi meters

A taxi driver shall not operate a taxi on the road unless it is fitted with an approved taxi meter. The taxi meter must comply with specifications set out in Regulations. The taxi meter is to be so adjusted that it indicates the fare payable in relation to the current regulated taxi fares.

Taxi meter to be fitted

A vehicle used for hire or reward and operated, as a taxi must be fitted with a taxi meter. Once the taxi meter has been approved by the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

Each taxi meter fitted to a vehicle is required to comply with Regulations. The Regulation identifies the requirements that taxi meters must comply with.

These are:

- have tariff indicator capabilities
- be capable of displaying, in easily discernible letters and figures the hire charge, the distance rate and the prescribed tariff
- be capable of being effectively sealed
- be capable of being fitted in a position and manner that is approved
- once fitted the taxi meter shall be tested and sealed by an approved testing officer.

A taxi driver and/ or taxi operator cannot operate a taxi without a taxi meter.

Operation of taxi meters

Tariff 1 – is to be charged for all journeys between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am Monday to Friday

Tariff 2 – is to be charged for all journeys between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am Monday to Thursday. Friday 7.00 pm to Monday 6.00 am and all Public Holidays

In the case of hiring by hail or a prearranged hiring the driver of a taxi shall, as soon as the hiring is accepted (when the passenger is seated in the taxi and an instruction or direction is given to the driver by the hirer or passenger), but not sooner, set the taxi meter into operation.

In the case of fixed time booking with the hirer, the taxi driver must make personal contact with the hirer or passenger then the taxi meter can be set into operation.

The driver shall, immediately on completion or the hiring, stop the taxi meter. The driver of a taxi must operate the taxi meter in accordance with the legislation whenever that vehicle is operated as a taxi. The taxi driver under Regulation 53(1)(a) can accept less than the metered fare but not more.

Country running

Country running is currently legislated at 93 cents per kilometer each way. That means that you are charging at the rate of \$1.86 per kilometer for a one-way journey and 93 cents per km plus waiting time for a return journey. The taxi driver can negotiate a fare with the passenger, which is less than the fare by kilometers. The taxi meter is not to be used.

Soiling fee

The taxi driver can charge an additional fee of \$66.00 in addition to the metered fare.

Adelaide airport service fee

The taxi driver can charge an additional fee of \$2.00 when picking up passengers from T1 airport terminal rank of Andy Thomas Circuit in addition to the metered fare as reimbursement for the service fee for the taxi to access the airport taxi rank.

Maintenance of taxi meters

The operator of a taxi shall keep the taxi meter in good working order and have it tested by an approved testing officer at least once every 6 months.

If the taxi meter is not registering correctly or the display is malfunctioning. It is the responsibility of the operator, to cease using the taxi until an approved testing officer certifies the taxi meter as being correct.

If the seal on the taxi meter, which certifies the taxi meter's accuracy, is for some reason broken, the operator must not permit the vehicle to be operated for hire or reward until an approved testing officer certifies the taxi meter.

Inspection of a taxi meter

The operator shall present the taxi for a taxi meter test, by an approved testing officer, whenever requested to do so by an authorised officer from the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

Interference of a taxi meter

A person, other than an approved testing officer or a person, who is an approved taxi meter repairer, shall not interfere with a taxi meter. The maximum penalty for such an offence is \$750.00 under Regulation 90.

Roof signs (dome light)

A taxi shall not operate unless it is fitted with an approved roof sign, which complies with the Regulations. Roof signs have to be capable of being illuminated and have the word "TAXI" displayed on the front of it.

It is the responsibility of each operator and driver to comply with all relevant legal requirements associated with the daily use of a public passenger vehicle.

Further information

Contact the Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure,
Accreditation and Licensing Centre
PO Box 9 Marlestone BC, SA 5033
Telephone: (09) 8226 8026
Facsimile: (08) 8226 8024
Internet: www.dtei.sa.gov.au

This Fact Sheet is provided for information only.

No responsibility will be accepted from the use of the information contained in this Fact Sheet.

MR894 08/09