

City of New Orleans

Department of Safety and Permits

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Administrative Rule 17-04

Animal Drawn Carriages: Standards and Requirements

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Animal Drawn Carriages: Standards and Requirements

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Animal Drawn Carriages: Standards and Requirements

Introduction

Pursuant to Section 162-46 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Orleans, the Department of Safety and Permits hereby promulgates standards and requirements for animal drawn carriages operating in the city of New Orleans. These standards are based on national best practices and operational conditions suggested by the Humane Society of the United States*.

The purpose of creating these standards and requirements is ensure the health and well-being of carriage animals which serve the citizens of and visitors to New Orleans.

Regulatory Standards

The Standards and Requirements for Animal Drawn Carriages contained herein shall not be read or construed to supersede or replace any standards of licensing or conduct outlined in Chapter 162 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Orleans.

* The model standards of the Humane Society of the United States have been withdrawn from publication as the HSUS is opposed to the operation of animal-drawn carriages in urban environments.

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Health, Grooming, and Equipment Maintenance

All Animal-Drawn Carriage operators shall comply with the following standards, in addition to those standards provided in Sections 162-542 through 162-548 of the City Code:

- (1) A licensed equine veterinarian shall certify, after due and proper inspection, the good health of each carriage animal before it is placed into service. A minimum of four (4) such health inspections shall be required for each animal each calendar year.
 - a. Carriage animals shall receive all necessary immunizations, be dewormed at appropriate intervals to control internal parasites, and shall be given other preventive and diagnostic care as stipulated by the attending veterinarian and local and state laws and regulations.
 - b. Carriage animals which have been "nerved" or which have been subjected to any other procedure intended to permanently or temporarily block the animal's ability to perceive pain shall not be used to pull carriages. Injured or lame equines will be given appropriate rest and veterinary care, and will be excluded from working duties until the injury or unsoundness has healed and the animal's ability to resume work has been certified by a veterinarian.
 - c. Certification of good health for each carriage animal shall be submitted on a form issued by the Director of Safety and Permits for such purpose.
- (2) Carriage animals shall be properly shod to reflect working conditions, as determined by the LA SPCA.

Humane Treatment of Carriage Animals

- (1) Standards for the humane treatment of carriage animals are found in Sections 162-542 and 162-546 of the City Code.
- (2) No driver or other person may forcefully strike an animal or make movements or noise intended to frighten or harm an animal.

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- (3) Carriage operators are required to comply with standards or instructions for animal handling which may be provided by the LA SPCA.

Post-Accident Requirements

Any carriage or carriage animal which is involved in a traffic accident may not resume service unless or until:

- (1) Upon involvement in any traffic accident, the carriage and carriage animal involved in such collision shall be immediately removed from service.
 - a. The carriage animal shall not be permitted to pull any carriage involved in a collision back to the stable.
 - i. The carriage animal shall be trailered back to the stable or immediately to a veterinarian if circumstances require.
 - ii. If the carriage animal is unable to stand on its own, the carriage operator shall arrange emergency, on-site veterinary treatment prior to movement of the carriage animal.
 - b. The carriage shall be towed back to the stable and may not be pulled by any carriage animal.
- (2) No carriage shall return to service without a mechanical inspection by the Department of Safety and Permits and LA SPCA.
- (3) No carriage animal shall return to service without a certification of good health by a licensed equine veterinarian.
 - a. Certification of good health for each carriage animal shall be submitted on a form issued by the Director of Safety and Permits for such purpose.

Inspection of Carriages and Facilities

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- (1) All carriages shall be inspected not less than once per year, as provided in Chapter 162 of the City Code.
- (2) Inspections shall be conducted at the stables operated by the carriage operator and shall include an assessment of carriage equipment, stables, and carriage animals.
- (3) Employees of the Department of Safety and Permits and representatives of the LA SPCA will conduct scheduled annual inspections of carriages and stables jointly.
- (4) Unscheduled inspections of facilities or field inspections of carriages may be conducted as deemed appropriate by employees of the Department of Safety and Permits or representatives of the LA SPCA.
- (5) Any inspection of an Animal-Drawn carriage shall include inspection of the following items. The criteria of this Section shall not preclude inspectors of the Department of Safety and Permits and/or LASPCA from requiring correction of other observed conditions which, in the professional opinion of the inspector, pose a danger or hazard to the operator, passengers, pedestrians, or the carriage animal.
 - a. Main Body - Components of the body must not be damaged and/or dislocated so that they project from the carriage and present a safety hazard to occupants, pedestrians, the animal, or other vehicles. Body must be smooth and free of shrapnel or debris. Paint must be uniform and blended. All external components are properly and securely affixed to the body.
 - b. Steps - Steps must be affixed on either side of the carriage and must not be damaged and/or dislocated as to present a safety hazard. The steps must be covered in a non-slip tape or coating.
 - c. Fifth Wheel/Shafts - Fifth wheel must be able to move unrestricted in a full range of motion (left to right) under loaded weight and does not have excessive vertical free play. The king pin is present and undamaged along with the retaining nut. Fifth wheel should be adequately greased and free of debris or mud. Shafts must not be damaged and/or dislocated as to create a safety hazard to the animal or the public (free of cracks or splinters if wood/rust if metal). Shafts must mount to the carriage uniformly and securely.

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- d. Transom - Components must not be damaged and/or dislocated as to present a safety hazard to the animal or the public. Component must be clear of debris/mud and be uniformly painted.
- e. Footboard/Dashboard - Components must not be damaged and/or dislocated so that they project from the carriage and present a safety hazard to occupants, pedestrians, the animal, or other vehicles. Body must be smooth and free of shrapnel or debris. Paint must be uniform and blended.
- f. Driver Seat - Seat must be securely attached to the carriage body. Seat must be completely covered and must be free of cracks or tears in the upholstery as well as free of any staples or other debris that may be a safety hazard to the driver or others.
- g. Wheel Bearings - All wheels must turn freely and equally. Roller bearings are greased and spun freely.
- h. Wheels - The castle nut and retaining pin must be present on all wheels. All spokes are firmly set in the hub and rim.
- i. Tires - Wheels must have continuous rubber firmly attached to the circumference of the wheel. Rubber is in good condition and is free of dry-rot.
- j. Rear Axle - Mounted securely to the frame of the carriage. Axle shall not be bent, damaged, nor display excessive grease, debris, mud, or rust.
- k. Suspension - Springs are seated correctly on bearing surfaces and stacked correctly upon one another. Springs are free of cracks or damage in material.
- l. Interior Passenger Seats - Seat must be securely attached to the carriage body. Seat must be completely covered and must be free of cracks or tears in the upholstery as well as free of any staples or other debris that may be a safety hazard to passengers.
- m. LSV Identification - The carriage must have a Low Speed Vehicle Identification emblem (reflective triangle) that shall comply with current standards and specifications outlined pursuant to LA RS 32:377. The emblem must be placed at the rear of the carriage, mounted between two (2) and six (6) feet from the ground.

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- n. Reflectors - Two (2) amber retroreflectors near the front corners and two (2) red retroreflectors near the rear corners of the carriage. Placement shall be in a manner to outline the sides of the carriage.
- o. Color Scheme - Color(s) of the carriage are to be consistent with the fleet designs submitted to the TFHV Bureau upon application for the Animal Drawn Carriage CPNC.
- p. CPNC Numbers - The CPNC number (AC-00) shall have a minimum height of three (3) inches and be painted or decaled on the left and right sides of the carriage.
- q. CPNC Name - The CPNC Holder Name (Company Name) shall have a minimum height of three (3) inches and be painted or decaled on the left and right sides as well as the rear of the carriage.
- r. Company Information - The CPNC Holder phone number shall have a minimum height of three (3) inches and be painted or decaled on the left and right sides as well as the rear of the carriage.
- s. Head(Roof)/Irons (if present) - Components of the roof must not be damaged and/or dislocated so that they project from the carriage and present a safety hazard to occupants, pedestrians, the animal, or other vehicles. Fabric must be free of tears or other damage.
- t. Tail Lights - Two lamps each displaying a red light visible when lighted from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear thereof and two red reflectors visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear thereof when illuminated by the upper beams of head lamps.

Permit Requirements for Carriage Operators

As the primary purpose and function of Animal-Drawn Carriages is to provide sightseeing services on a per-capita basis, all operators shall be permitted as follows:

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- (1) Pursuant to Section 162-81 of the City Code, all operators of Animal-Drawn Carriages shall possess a Driver's Permit issued by the Department of Safety and Permits.
- (2) Pursuant to Sections 162-602, 30-1551, and 30-1552 of the City Code, all operators of Animal-Drawn Carriages shall possess a Tour Guide License issued by the Department of Safety and Permits.

Record Keeping and Reporting

- (3) By the 15th day of each month, carriage operators shall provide a registry to the Department of Safety and Permits and the LA SPCA providing the following information:
 - a. A full and complete listing of all operators/drivers authorized to operate carriages for the CPNC holder
 - b. A full and complete listing of all carriage animals owned by the CPNC holder.
 - i. Animals shall be identified by the identifying number which is tattooed upon the animal in accordance with Section 162-541 of the City Code.
 - ii. The listing for animals shall indicate the date of the carriage animal's last veterinary examination. Certificates of good health issued the preceding month shall be included with this submission.
 - c. A complete schedule for the preceding month reflecting the actual work schedule for each carriage animal.

Carriage Animal Heat Policy

In accordance with Section 162-543(b), the following Heat Policy addresses special circumstances which would jeopardize the safety of carriage animals.

Monitoring of Temperature and Heat Indices

The Department of Safety and Permits will utilize weather information provided by the National Weather Service (www.weather.gov) to monitor the

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temperature and heat index for the city of New Orleans. The Department will utilize weather data reported by the weather station at New Orleans Lakefront Airport (KNEW).

Heat Guidelines

1. When the reported temperature is 90 degrees or higher, the Department of Safety and Permits or agents of the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals may perform a visual inspection of working carriage animals to detect heat-induced stress.
2. When the reported temperature is above 95.0 degrees or the heat index is above 105.0 degrees carriage operation shall be suspended.
 - a. Any person operating a carriage in violation of this provision is subject to suspension or revocation of their operator's permit and the CPNC issued to the carriage is subject to suspension or revocation.
 - b. Any tour currently in progress may continue to completion without being in violation of this provision.
 - c. Carriage animals located at a designated hack stand may remain at the stand or return to the stable, subject to the discretion of the operator. This provision is made to prevent carriage animals from being subjected to additional heat stress caused by returning to their stable.
 - d. This regulation is only applicable when the temperature and/or heat index exceeds the limits of this Section. When the temperature and/or heat index fall below this maximum, carriage operations may resume.

Elevated Temperature of Carriage Animal Procedure

If the temperature of any carriage animal currently working is found to be at or above 102.0 degrees, the carriage operator or company may retake the

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temperature in the presence of City/LASPCA staff. If the temperature of the carriage animal remains at 102.0 degrees or above after 30-minutes from initial reading, that carriage animal will be ordered out of service for the remainder of the day. The animal may be required to remain in place or immediately returned to the stable as determined by City/LASPCA staff in the best interest of the animal.

Penalty for Violation

Any violations of these provisions may be cited as a violation of procedurally adopted Departmental Regulations, promulgated pursuant to Section 2-1000 of the City Code.

- (1) Multiple violations of the standards contained herein shall constitute separate violations of Departmental Regulations and may be cited individually.
- (2) Any CPNC Holder or Operator cited as operating in violation of these Regulations shall be subject to the administrative adjudication processes of Chapter 162 of the City Code. Penalties may include fines not to exceed \$500 per violation, or suspension or revocation of the Operator's Permit or Animal Drawn Carriage CPNC.