GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Government Approves Demerit Point System for Taxi and Livery Drivers

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The Ministry of Communication and Works has approved the implementation of a Demerit Point System for drivers of taxi and livery motor vehicles.

The approval was granted pursuant to Regulations 8(1) and 8(3) of the *Road Traffic (Taxi and Livery Commission) Regulations, 1997*, as amended and authorises the Commission to enforce the Demerit Point System with immediate effect.

Purpose of the Demerit Point System

A demerit point is a mark recorded against a taxi or livery operator for poor conduct or improper operation of a transportation-for-hire motor vehicle. The Demerit Point System is therefore intended to promote safe, lawful, and professional conduct within the taxi and livery industry. The system also aims to identify, penalise, and deter repeat offenders of traffic and regulatory laws, while streamlining disciplinary and enforcement processes.

How the System Works

Taxi and livery operators will begin with a zero demerit point balance under the system. Points are issued for offences relating to non-compliance with regulations, unsafe driving practices, vehicle condition, intoxication, speeding, licensing violations, and other breaches connected to transportation-for-hire services. Demerit points accrue cumulatively and may be added following convictions, administrative findings by the Commission, or determinations of fault in traffic accidents.

Points may be reduced after one year without violations or upon the successful completion of remedial conditions imposed by the Commission.

Penalties and Disciplinary Measures

Where a taxi or livery operator accumulates demerit points within a 12-month period exceeding prescribed thresholds, the Commission may recommend disciplinary action, including:

- 100 points – Suspension for one (1) month
- 200 points – Suspension for two (2) months

- 300 points – Suspension for three (3) months or revocation of licence

In cases where a licence is revoked, the operator will be required to meet the criteria of a new applicant before re-licensing.

Additionally, any person who breaches a provision of the approved Demerit Point System commits an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00). Convictions may also result in additional demerit points being applied.

Record Keeping and Transparency

The Taxi and Livery Commission will maintain a permanent demerit point record for each licensed operator. Operators may inspect their records and may obtain copies upon payment of a prescribed fee.

Commitment to Public Safety

The Government and the Taxi and Livery Commission remain committed to enhancing road safety, improving service standards, and ensuring public confidence in the taxi and livery sector. Operators are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Demerit Point System and to comply fully with all applicable laws and regulations.

About:

The Taxi and Livery Commission (TLC) is the regulatory body for public transport, overseeing licenses, enforcing rules, conducting training (like service excellence), investigating complaints, and ensuring compliance for taxis and livery services, coordinating with entities like the Government of the Virgin Islands and Tourist Board to maintain standards, especially for visitor transport. The TLC handles inspections, penalties, and training, ensuring operators follow laws and maintain quality service.

For further information, operators may contact the Taxi and Livery Commission directly at 468-4090 or via email at tlc@bvitaxiandlivery.org.

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Additional Documents or Media

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