



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Date: March 3, 2025

To: Jessica Kruszewski, Administrative Law Judge, Administrative Law Division

From: Jason Sharp, Motor Carrier Safety Supervisor, Transportation Safety Division

Re: TV-250054 Moving Cab Corporation

Evaluation of Safety Management Plan, Recommendations regarding the company's safety rating, and the cancellation of household goods mover operating authority (THG-071280)

On January 23, 2025, Commission staff (Staff) completed a routine safety investigation of Moving Cab Corporation, (Moving Cab or Company) which resulted in a proposed conditional safety rating.

Provisional household goods companies must achieve a satisfactory safety rating prior to receiving permanent status. As the Company has yet to achieve a satisfactory safety rating, the Commission afforded Moving Cab the same opportunity as companies that receive a proposed unsatisfactory safety rating to provide evidence, in the form of an approved safety management plan (SMP), showing that the company took corrective action to address the identified violations.

Commission rules prohibit motor carriers from operating beginning on the 61st day after the date of the notice of a proposed unsatisfactory rating. A company may request a change in its safety rating based on evidence that it has taken corrective action to address the identified violations, and that its operations currently meet the safety standard and factors in 49 C.F.R. § 385.5 and 385.7. In this case, Moving Cab has until March 24, 2025, to come into compliance with applicable laws and rules by obtaining Commission approval of a SMP.

The proposed conditional safety rating was based on two violations of critical regulations – 49 C.F.R. § 391.45(a) and 395.8(a)(1).

“**Critical**” regulations are those identified as such where non-compliance relates to management and operational controls. These are indicative of breakdowns in a company's management controls. Patterns of non-compliance with critical regulations are linked to inadequate safety management controls and higher than average accident rates.

Critical violations discovered during investigation:

1. Two violations with 13 occurrences of 49 C.F.R. § 391.45(a) for using a driver not medically examined and certified.
2. Eight violations of 49 C.F.R. § 395.8(a)(1) for failing to require a driver to prepare a record of duty status using the appropriate method.

In a February 7, 2025, Notice of Intent to Cancel, the Commission instructed the Company to submit its proposed SMP no later than February 24, 2025.

On February 24, 2025, the Commission issued a penalty assessment against Moving Cab in the amount of \$1,600 because of violations discovered during the safety investigation. The penalty was calculated as follows:

1. A \$100 penalty for one violation of WAC 480-15-555(1) for failing to complete a criminal background check for every person the carrier intends to hire.
2. A \$1,300 penalty for 13 violations of 49 C.F.R. § 391.45(a) for using a driver not medically examined and certified.
3. A \$100 penalty for one violation of 49 C.F.R. § 393.41 for having an inoperative parking brake on of its commercial motor vehicles.
4. A \$100 penalty for eight violations of 49 C.F.R. § 395.8(a)(1) for failing to require a driver to prepare a record of duty status using the appropriate method.

On February 20, 2025, Moving Cab submitted a SMP addressing each violation noted during the investigation. Staff reviewed the SMP to ensure that it addressed the following seven requirements:

1. The plan must address each acute, critical, or serious violation discovered during the most recent investigation. It must also include corrective actions that address other violations noted during the investigation.
2. Identify why the violations were permitted to occur.
3. Discuss the actions taken to correct the deficiency or deficiencies that allowed the violations to occur. Include actual documentation of this corrective action.
4. Outline actions taken to ensure that similar violations do not reoccur in the future. The plan must demonstrate that the company's operations currently meet safety standards and factors specified in 49 C.F.R. § 385.5 and 385.7. To do so, the plan must demonstrate the company now has adequate safety management controls in place which function effectively to ensure acceptable compliance with applicable safety requirements.

5. If the request includes actions that will be conducted in the near future, such as training, reorganization of departments, purchasing of computer programs, etc., companies must include a detailed description of the activity or training and a schedule of when that activity will commence and when it will be completed.
6. Include any additional documentation relating to motor carrier safety and the prevention of crashes that the company believes supports its request.
7. Include a written statement certifying the company will operate within federal and state regulations and the company's operation currently meets the safety standard and factors specific to 49 C.F.R. § 385.5 and 385.7. A corporate officer, partner, or the owner of the company must sign the statement.

On February 26, 2025, Moving Cab filed its response to the penalty assessment, admitting the violations, and requesting that the penalties be mitigated. In the application for mitigation, the Company did not request a hearing, but rather requested the Commission decide based solely on information that it provided in its SMP.

On February 28, 2025, Moving Cab submitted a "Waiver of Hearing" letter to this docket.

Summary and Recommendations

Staff reviewed Moving Cab's SMP and concludes it meets the legal requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 385. The plan demonstrates the Company took corrective action to develop a compliant safety program and implemented systems that if followed, should prevent future repeat violations.

Documentation of company policies and procedures, driver qualifications, hours of service records, insurance, and vehicle maintenance documents were included in the plan. Additionally, the plan contains calendar reminders for future compliance due dates.

The Company took the required steps to bring its safety operations into compliance with Commission regulations. Moving Cab submitted a SMP that addresses each violation, identifies how the violations occurred, describes the steps the Company took to correct the violations, and put controls in place to ensure the Company maintains compliance. Staff recommend the Commission:

1. Not cancelling Moving Cab's provisional permit.
2. Maintain the Company's conditional rating; and
3. Extend the Moving Cab's provisional period until such a time that Moving Cab achieves a satisfactory safety rating, or the Commission finds good cause to cancel the Company's operating authority.

In response to the Company's mitigation request, the Company was cooperative throughout the safety investigation, provided staff with evidence that it corrected these first-time violations, and

implemented procedures to prevent future occurrences. Staff recommend that \$800 of the \$1,600 assessed penalty be suspended for two years and then waived, with the following conditions:

1. Moving Cab maintains a conditional safety rating.
2. Staff perform a follow-up safety investigation at least six months from the date of the order.
3. The Company does not incur repeat critical violations upon reinspection; and
4. Moving Cab pays \$800 that is not suspended.

The Company and Staff agree to waive the hearing and allow for an order to be issued based on the written record.