

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF PENALTIES INCURRED AND DUE
FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAWS AND RULES**

PENALTY ASSESSMENT: TE-170372

PENALTY AMOUNT: \$300

Leavenworth Shuttle & Taxi LLC
894 Highway 2 Suite L
Leavenworth, WA 98826

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) believes that you have committed violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-30-221 Vehicle and Driver Safety Requirements, which requires charter and excursion carriers to comply with Title 49 CFR, Part 382 – Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing, Part 393 – Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation, and Part 396 – Inspection, Repair and Maintenance.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.04.405 allows penalties of one hundred dollars for each violation of Title 49 CFR Parts 382, 393 and 396. In the case of an ongoing violation, every day's continuance is considered a separate and distinct violation.

In July, 2016, Commission Motor Carrier Investigator Sandi Yeomans conducted a compliance review of Leavenworth Shuttle & Taxi (Leavenworth Shuttle). As a follow-up to the 2016 review, Ms. Yeomans conducted an additional compliance review in April 2017 and documented the following violations:

- **Two violations of Title 49 CFR Part 382.305(i)(2) – Failing to ensure each driver subject to random alcohol and controlled substances testing has an equal chance of being selected each time selections are made.** Drivers Hillary Mason and Trudy Lundgren were not included in the testing pool but should have been.
- **One violation of Title 49 CFR Part 396.3(a)(1) – Failing to maintain parts and accessories in safe and proper operating condition.** Leavenworth Shuttle vehicle #322 had defective brakes (out-of-adjustment) on two of six wheels.

The Commission considered the following factors in determining the appropriate penalties for these violations:

1. **How serious or harmful the violation is to the public.** The violations noted are serious and potentially harmful to the public. Companies that employ drivers who are not in compliance with controlled substances and alcohol testing requirements or that use vehicles with defective tires and brakes put the traveling public at risk. An impaired driver, or failure of tires or brakes present serious safety concerns.
2. **Whether the violation is intentional.** Considerations include:

- Whether the company ignored Commission staff's (Staff) previous technical assistance; and
- Whether there is clear evidence through documentation or other means that shows the company knew of and failed to correct the violation.

In its application for charter and excursion authority dated received by the Commission on April 10, 2013 David Witt, President of Leavenworth Shuttle, acknowledged his responsibility to understand and comply with applicable motor carrier safety rules. Staff conducted a new entrant visit with Leavenworth Shuttle on April 23, 2013 and provided additional technical assistance to the company. In July 2016 staff conducted a compliance review, documented violations of Title 49 CFR Part 382.305(i)(2), and provided additional technical assistance. The company knew, or should have known, about these requirements.

3. **Whether the company self-reported the violation.** The company did not self-report these violations.
4. **Whether the company was cooperative and responsive.** Leavenworth Shuttle was cooperative and responsive.
5. **Whether the company promptly corrected the violations and remedied the impacts.** The company was cooperative and receptive to technical assistance, but staff is not aware of any immediate steps taken to correct these violations.
6. **The number of violations.** The fact that Leavenworth Shuttle continues to have safety violations is a concern to staff. The number of violations, for a company this size, is not significant.
7. **The number of customers affected.** The company traveled 120,000 miles and reported \$400,000 in gross revenue for 2016. A significant number of passengers were likely affected by these safety violations.
8. **The likelihood of recurrence.** The Commission does not know if the company is likely to repeat these violations, however the company was cooperative and receptive of staff's assistance.
9. **The company's past performance regarding compliance, violations, and penalties.** A compliance review was conducted in July 2016 resulting in a significant number of violations and a penalty of \$19,600.
10. **The company's existing compliance program.** Leavenworth Shuttle has no formal compliance program.
11. **The size of the company.** Leavenworth Shuttle operates eight commercial vehicles with six drivers. The company reported \$400,000 in gross revenue and 120,000 miles traveled in 2016.

These are first-time violations, but the Commission's Enforcement Policy provides that some Commission requirements are so fundamental to safe operations that the Commission will issue mandatory penalties for each occurrence of a first-time violation.¹ The Commission generally will assess penalties per type of violation, rather than per occurrence, for other first-time violations of critical regulations that do not meet the criteria for mandatory penalties. The Commission will assess penalties for any repeat violations of critical regulations found in future compliance investigations, including for each occurrence of a repeat violation.

The Commission has considered these factors and determined that it should penalize Leavenworth Shuttle \$300 for violations of WAC 480-30-221 Driver Safety Requirements, which adopts CFR Parts 382, 393 and 396, calculated as follows:

- Two violations of Title 49 CFR Part 382.305(i)(2) – Failing to ensure each driver subject to random alcohol and controlled substances testing has an equal chance of being selected each time selections are made. These are repeat violations, and the Commission assesses a violation of \$100 for each violation, for a total of \$200.
- One violation of Title 49 CFR Part 396.3(a)(1) – Failing to maintain parts and accessories in safe and proper operating condition. The Commission assesses a penalty of \$100 for this violation.

This information, if proven at a hearing and not rebutted or explained, is sufficient to support the penalty assessment.

Your penalty is due and payable now. If you believe any or all of the violations did not occur, you may deny committing the violation(s) and contest the penalty assessment through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. The Commission will grant a request for hearing only if material issues of law or fact concerning the violation(s) require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. Any contest of the penalty assessment must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that contest. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the contest.

If there is a reason for any or all of the violations that you believe should excuse you from the penalty, you may ask for mitigation (reduction) of this penalty through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. The Commission will grant a request for hearing only if material issues of law or fact require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. Any request for mitigation must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. See RCW 81.04.405.

If you properly present your request for a hearing and the Commission grants that request, the Commission will review the evidence supporting your dispute of the violation(s) or application for mitigation in a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding before an administrative law judge. The administrative law judge will consider the evidence and will notify you of his or her decision.

¹ Docket A-120061 – Enforcement Policy of the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission – Section V.

You must act within 15 days after receiving this notice to do one of the following:

- Pay the amount due.
- Contest the occurrence of the violations.
- Request mitigation to contest the amount of the penalty.

Please indicate your selection on the enclosed form and send it to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Post Office Box 47250, Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, **within FIFTEEN (15) days** after you receive this notice.

If you do not act within 15 days, the Commission may take additional enforcement action, including but not necessarily limited to suspending or revoking your certificate to provide regulated service, assessing additional penalties, or referring this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for collection.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 2, 2017.

/s/ Gregory J. Kopta
GREGORY J. KOPTA
Administrative Law Judge

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PENALTY ASSESSMENT TE-170372

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violation occurred and enclose \$ _____ in payment of the penalty.

2. **Contest the violation.** I believe that the alleged violation did not occur for the reasons I describe below (**if you do not include reasons supporting your contest here, your request will be denied**):

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violation, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below (**if you do not include reasons supporting your application here, your request will be denied**):

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: _____ [month/day/year], at _____ [city, state]

Name of Respondent (company) – please print

Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020:

“Perjury in the first degree. (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he makes a materially false statement which he knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor’s mistaken belief that his statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section. (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.”