

GLOBAL NEWS



CALIFORNIAN CABBIES TO SMELL NICER – LIKE THEIR LONDON COUNTERPARTS!

Californian cab drivers from San Diego may soon be forced to bathe and wear clean clothes before going to work! The Port Commission in the City are considering stricter grooming rules mandating drivers be free of offensive body odour, their collared shirts and trousers to be clean and pressed and - horror of horrors - they must wear socks! New proposals would also require dent-free vehicles that were no more than 10 years old to be cleaned regularly.

Those not following the new ruling could be fined, while the Commissioners said that it was “an image thing,” adding that disgusted tourists meant fewer tourist dollars.

A member of the Port Commission speaking to Taxi Globe, told our fairly clean reporter: “I feel the first impression of the city is the cab driver whose cab you jump into. I know from riding in your London cabs that they have a good odour emanating from them. I don’t know exactly how bad the problem is in San Diego and I don’t want us to be tagged like New York, but there is definitely a hygiene problem. I want us to be equated with London, where I doubt you get many complaints about smelly and dishevelled drivers.” He went on to add: “I think the changes are necessary because discipline was getting away from us. We’re getting complaints from people and we felt we needed to tighten things up.”

Yellow Cab driver Kevin Jackson agreed that some of his colleagues needed a bath. “Some people smell so bad and if you smell bad, passengers get offended. I smell good and I believe in smelling good. Most of the time my passengers ask me what kind of cologne I wear?”

His fellow Yellow Cab driver, Eyob Araya, didn’t like the idea and wondered how the rules would be enforced. “Is there a machine that will smell us,” he asked Taxi Globe’s by now slightly sweaty reporter? However, he was unable to reply, made his excuses and left...

ADELAIDE POLICE DELIVER BABY IN CAB – DRIVER LEFT UPSET!

Two Australian police officers have helped a 39-year-old woman deliver her baby girl in an Adelaide taxi. Sgt. James Drake and officer Kirsty Klenn assisted Jane Appleton in the delivery of her daughter, 7.5-pounds Shakira. Kirsty told Taxi Globe: “The cabdriver began honking his horn and a child inside the cab - one of Jane’s two other children with her - waved at us to get our attention. We then assisted Mrs Appleton in the delivery, which was over within minutes as the child’s head was already showing.”

The delivery had no major complications, although in the beginning the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby’s head. The driver, who lost some of his newly found popularity when trying to get extra money because Jane’s burst water stained his carpet, declined any comment other than being happy that the birth was ok, but claiming that he wasn’t recognised as a charity and wanted compensation for the stained carpet!

Mother and baby were taken to a local hospital where both were doing well. The driver continued on his way to the local store where he probably intended telling children that there was no Santa!

CAB BLOWS UP IN INDIA...

Four people died in Mumbai recently when a compressed natural gas (CNG) cylinder fitted into a taxi exploded while being refilled. According to Indian police reports, the explosion was caused because the cylinder was one of many sub-standard units that were still fitted in Indian cabs. Following the incident, the Petrol Dealers’ Association threatened to shut down all CNG outlets that are attached to petrol pumps across the metropolis. The president of the Association told Taxi Globe that their first commitment was towards safety. While taxis were fitted with sub-standard CNG cylinders, these were like mobile bombs roaming the streets of Mumbai.

“When these cabs come to our pumps for refilling, they pose a big threat to our safety. If there is an explosion because of illegal CNG cylinders, there is every possibility of storage tanks catching fire, which could then lead to a huge disaster. We want the authorities to recall all taxis which are on CNG, check their cylinders and ensure that they meet safety standards. We know that CNG is far cleaner than petrol or diesel, but we only want it when safe. There are many reliable systems, but while some run around with illegal ones, there is a danger.”

We should add that this situation doesn’t apply to gas cabs running around the streets of London, whose systems are all passed by the PCO...

SOUTH AFRICAN CABBY SAVES PENSIONER FROM LOTTERY SCAM...

Thanks to an observant taxi driver, an elderly senior citizen from Bloemfontein, South Africa, has been rescued from a lottery scam. According to local police, cab driver Sam Beaumont became worried about an 80-year-old regular passenger when she asked him to take her to two different banks. “She usually just went to the shops,” Sam explained to Taxi Globe.

While waiting for her outside the second bank, Sam called the police who waited for the passenger as she arrived home in the cab. She told police that she had received a phone call informing her she won a million US dollars in a lottery and had been asked to send money for taxes and expenses before she got her prize. According to police, she then sent R40,000 (around £3000) on three separate occasions. While the police were at her house, she received a call from one of the banks that had called to verify her last transaction. Police were then able to stop it, but the first two batches of £3000 were probably lost forever. Bloemfontein police told Taxi Globe that the same woman was duped by another scam several years ago! Sadly, some people just never learn...

CRICKLEWOOD CARRIERS CAB COMPANY

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