

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Resolution ALJ-187  
Administrative Law Judge Division  
September 22, 2005

**R E S O L U T I O N**

RESOLUTION ALJ-187. Adopts Procedures for Appeal of Citations Issued to Household Goods Carriers, Charter Party Carriers, and Passenger Stage Corporations.

---

By a series of previous resolutions, the Commission has developed a program under which the Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) is authorized to issue citations to various classes of carriers for violation of the Public Utilities Code or Commission orders. In turn, a carrier issued such a citation may accept the fine imposed or contest it through a process of appeal. Now, in an effort to make this program more comprehensive and this process more efficient, the Commission has prepared new procedures to govern the appeal of these citations.

A draft of this resolution was issued on August 19, 2005, for public review and comment. No one filed comments. The resolution is adopted as originally proposed with minor clarifications.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the following procedures shall govern appeals of citations for violation of statutes or Commission orders relating to household goods carriers, charter party carriers, and passenger stage corporations:

1. *Citation: Contents.* The citation served upon the respondent by the investigator shall include:
  - (a) A specification of each statute or Commission order allegedly violated;
  - (b) A statement of the facts upon which each alleged violation is based;
  - (c) A statement that the respondent may either pay the amount of the fine set forth in the citation or appeal the citation, as set forth herein, and that the respondent will forfeit the right to appeal the citation by failing to do either of these things within the allowable period;

- (d) An explanation of how to file an appeal, including an explanation of the respondent's right to have a hearing, to have a representative at the hearing, to request a transcript, and to request an interpreter; and
  - (e) A form of Notice of Appeal, and the form for requesting an interpreter.
- 2. *Citation: Response.* The respondent, within 20 days after the date of service of the citation, shall either remit payment of the full amount of the fine to CPSD, agree with CPSD on conditions for payment, or serve a Notice of Appeal upon CPSD. Upon request made to CPSD before the expiration of this deadline, the time to pay the fine or serve a Notice of Appeal may be extended by CPSD for a reasonable period not to exceed 30 days. CPSD may, in its discretion, grant one additional extension at the request of the respondent.
- 3. *Citation: Payment of fine; default.* If the respondent pays the full amount of the fine within the time allowed hereunder, the citation shall become final. If the respondent, within the time allowed pursuant to Paragraph 2, fails to pay the full amount of the fine or to file a Notice of Appeal, or if the respondent, having entered into an agreement with CPSD, fails to comply with any provision of that agreement, the respondent shall be in default, and the citation shall become final. In this event, the respondent shall have forfeited its right to appeal the citation, and CPSD shall immediately suspend the respondent's license. If the respondent fails to pay the full amount of the fine within 30 days thereafter, CPSD shall revoke the respondent's license, and may take any other action provided by law to recover any unpaid fine and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and Commission orders.
- 4. *Citation: Appeal.*
  - (a) The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall designate an Administrative Law Judge to hear appeals of citations.
  - (b) Appeals of citations shall be heard in the Commission's San Francisco or Los Angeles courtrooms on regularly scheduled days. Appeals shall be calendared accordingly, except that a particular matter may be recalendared at the direction of the designated Administrative Law Judge.
  - (c) The appeal shall be brought by serving a Notice of Appeal upon CPSD, and the respondent shall indicate the grounds for the appeal in the notice. CPSD shall promptly advise the Chief Administrative Law Judge upon receipt of a timely Notice of Appeal.
  - (d) Upon advice from CPSD that a citation has been appealed, the Chief Administrative Law Judge shall promptly forward the matter to the

designated Administrative Law Judge, who shall set the matter for hearing on the first Citation Calendar not less than 10 days after advice of the appeal is received from CPSD. The Administrative Law Judge may, for good cause shown or upon agreement of the parties, grant a reasonable continuance of the hearing.

- (e) The respondent may order a transcript of the hearing, and shall pay the cost of the transcript in accordance with the Commission's usual procedures.
  - (f) The respondent shall be entitled to the services of an interpreter at the Commission's expense upon written request to the Chief Administrative Law Judge not less than three business days prior to the date of the hearing.
  - (g) The respondent may be represented at the hearing by an attorney or other representative, but such representation shall be at the respondent's sole expense.
  - (h) At the hearing, CPSD shall open and close. The Administrative Law Judge may, in his or her discretion, alter the order of presentation. Formal rules of evidence do not apply, and all relevant and reliable evidence may be received in the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.
  - (i) Ordinarily, the appeal shall be submitted at the close of the hearing. In the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge upon a showing of good cause, the record may be kept open for a reasonable period to permit a party to submit additional evidence or argument.
  - (j) The Administrative Law Judge shall issue an order resolving the appeal not later than 30 days after the appeal is submitted, and the order shall be placed on the first available agenda, consistent with the Commission's applicable rules.
  - (k) From the date that CPSD receives a Notice of Appeal to and including the date when the final order is issued, neither the respondent nor the investigator, or agent or other person on behalf of the respondent or investigator, may communicate regarding the appeal, orally or in writing, with a Commissioner, Commissioner's advisor, or Administrative Law Judge, except as expressly permitted under these procedures.
5. *New Operating Authority.* A carrier whose license has been revoked hereunder may apply for new operating authority upon paying the fine in full. The application shall document (1) full payment of the fine, (2) correction of all violations for which the carrier was cited, (3) actions the carrier proposes in

order to prevent future violations, and (4) any other evidence demonstrating the carrier's ability and commitment to conducting its proposed operations in compliance with statutes and Commission orders.

This resolution becomes effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on September 22, 2005, the following Commissioners approving it:

/s/ STEVE LARSON

STEVE LARSON  
Executive Director

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY  
President  
GEOFFREY F. BROWN  
SUSAN P. KENNEDY  
DIAN M. GRUENEICH  
JOHN A. BOHN  
Commissioners