

The Minister of Tourism Development and Transport, Shawn Crockwell said he “would like to remind public service vehicle operators [taxi drivers and minibus operators] of the importance of working together during our busy cruise ship season and that they must comply with their respective regulations and the terms of their permits.”

“The Ministry continues to work very closely with WEDCo to improve and enhance the infrastructure and services provided to our cruise ship visitors in Dockyard and ensuring that there is adequate lift to meet everyone’s needs,” a spokesperson said.

He said, “In 2013 the Ministry and WEDCo introduced a new traffic and pedestrian system at the Ground Transportation Area [GTA] in Dockyard. The new system was necessary due to the increased number of passengers and it has proven to be very successful providing a safer and more logical system for cruise ship passengers.”

“Recently there have been reports, unfortunately, of incidents of operators failing to follow proper procedures and the Ministry of Tourism Development and Transport would like to remind all operators that they are expected to work within the designated areas at Dockyard and to follow the guidance and instruction of the traffic officers.

“As the Minister responsible for Tourism Development and Transport, I implore all of the operators to be respectful to the traffic officers and to follow their proper instructions. I would also remind the mini bus operators that they should not directly compete with and attempt to undercut the business of taxis which is outside of their permit.

“Obviously, we want an environment in Dockyard that is favourable for all the operators as well as our visitors. Very often the first impression our cruise ship visitors get of Bermuda is from our taxi and mini bus operators, and it should be a good one as is usually the case.

“However, there are some operators who choose to flout the law or breach the terms of their permit. If caught, they can expect to be ticketed and repeat offenders could risk suspension or revocation of their permit.”

“It is still early days in our cruise ship season and we are fortunate in that we have quite a robust season ahead of us. If we all work together we can have a very successful and smooth transportation system at our primary cruise port.

“I often receive complimentary letters from visitors who have been treated extremely well by our taxi drivers and mini bus operators. I am very proud of the job both groups have done over the years as Bermuda’s top tourism ambassadors and I am relying on them to continue this proud tradition.”