

Uber fined \$7M for keeping info from California regulators

July 15 2015



In this Dec. 16, 2014, file photo a man leaves the headquarters of Uber in San Francisco. Uber picked up a hefty fare Wednesday, July 15, 2015, when a judge fined the taxi-alternative company \$7.3 million for refusing to give California regulators information about its business practices, including accident details and how accessible vehicles are to disabled riders. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg, File)

Uber picked up a hefty tab Wednesday when a judge fined the taxi-alternative's California subsidiary \$7.3 million for refusing to give state regulators information about its business practices, including when its

drivers turn down ride requests and how accessible vehicles are to disabled riders.

The fine was part of a ruling by an administrative law judge at the California Public Utilities Commission, the regulatory agency that allowed Uber and its competitors such as Lyft to operate in the state as long as the companies reported aspects of their activities.

The judge agreed with utility commission staff who said Uber's California subsidiary, Rasier-CA, has not filed all required reports, specifically about how often it provided disabled-accessible vehicles, places where [drivers](#) tend to turn down ride requests, and the causes of accidents.

Uber's app allows passengers to request a ride directly from drivers in the area—and allows drivers to decline the request. The utilities commission wants to see whether drivers are accepting fares evenly.

Attorneys for Rasier-CA had argued that the company provided sufficient information to the commission. The judge acknowledged that the company provided some of the contested information but said it was not enough.

In a written statement, Uber spokeswoman Eva Behrend called the ruling and fine "deeply disappointing" and said the company would appeal.

"Uber has already provided substantial amounts of data to the California Public Utilities Commission, information we have provided elsewhere with no complaints," Behrend wrote, adding that submitting more detailed [information](#) could affect the privacy of passengers and drivers.

In a written statement, the utilities commission said Uber was the only company of its kind not to comply with the reporting requirements.

Uber has previously tussled with public officials. In Portland, Oregon, for example it had an extended disagreement with the city that led it to suspend operations. In France, Uber suspended its low-cost service following an escalating legal dispute and sometimes-violent tensions with traditional French [taxi drivers](#). French authorities had ordered the service—called UberPop—shut down, but Uber refused, pending a legal decision at a top French court.

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