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Industry Advisory

Taxi Camera Upgrades & Expansion in BC

The Board is upgrading taxi camera standards in British Columbia and establishing a taxi camera program for all taxicabs operating in the Capital Regional District ("CRD").

Taxi cameras have been used in the Lower Mainland since 2004. A stakeholder review of the Lower Mainland taxi camera program concluded that taxi cameras are serving their driver-safety purpose. Lower Mainland taxicabs with original taxi camera models must be converted to newer and more advanced technology. Separately, a majority of CRD taxicab companies asked the Board to establish a taxi camera program in their area.

The new provincial standards and the introduction of taxi cameras in the CRD will help deter attacks and crimes against taxicab drivers. When an attack does occur, investigating police can count on getting a clear image of a suspect, even at night because taxi cameras use infrared technology to capture images in low-light and dark situations.

The new standards retain the important equipment and procedural requirements that protect the privacy of passengers and taxi drivers. Only an investigating police officer has the authorization, keys and passwords that are needed to view and use the images captured on a taxi camera.

Previous Board rules for taxi cameras have been replaced by one main taxi camera rule for BC. This rule is posted at the [Board website](#), and it applies to all taxi camera users and any taxi company that wishes to use taxi cameras. As a result, Lower Mainland taxicabs must upgrade their taxi camera equipment by November 30, 2009, if they have one of the original taxi camera models that has been in use since 2004/2005. For CRD taxicabs, a new generation taxi camera must be installed and operating by March 31, 2009. There is no change to other camera programs established in BC.

Taxi companies are required to follow Board taxi camera requirements or be subject to enforcement actions of the Registrar, Passenger Transportation Branch. Taxi cameras are one of several tools and methods that taxi companies and drivers can use to make it safer to drive a taxicab in British Columbia. [Click here](#) for more information about taxi driver safety options and obligations in the province.