

You and the Camera in Your Taxi

You drive a taxi in BC. Your vehicle has a camera in the front windshield and there are warning decals on the back window. Why are they there? What do they do? What are your responsibilities? This guide answers these basic questions. It should complement the more detailed information that your taxi company gives you.

Why is a camera in my taxi?

The camera prevents attacks. It makes it safer to do your job. It also makes it safer for people to travel in a taxi.

What do warning decals do?

Everyone in the taxi has a right to know that images are recorded. Also, warnings help deter attacks because people know that police can identify them.

What if I think I might be attacked?

If you suspect that a passenger might hurt you—or if you are actually attacked—press the emergency button on the camera. This locks in extra pictures before and after you press the button.

Even if you do not use the emergency button, the camera automatically saves images. All images help police find and prosecute suspects quickly.

Am I being watched?

No. Cameras cannot be used to monitor people 'live.' Only police can get the images, and only after an alleged crime. Company managers and owners cannot view the images. They are not used to settle civil insurance claims after a car crash. Unless there is a court order, only police view and use the images.

What must I do?

Help yourself and your company make sure the camera in your taxi is always working. That means:

1. Make sure your company trains you to do a visual check of the camera
2. Know what the status lights mean
3. Check the camera each day when you do your pre-trip inspection (camera head is secure and aimed; wires are hidden and connected)
4. Immediately report problems to your dispatcher and people you report to
5. Help ensure the camera gets inspected (yearly & within 5 days of windshield replacements or major accidents)
6. If police remove the memory card, make sure it is replaced immediately (your GM & camera installer can answer questions about card costs)

What if passengers ask about privacy?

Tell them why cameras are used. Also, tell them who can and cannot see the images. If they have questions you cannot answer, have them contact your General Manager.

More Info

1. Talk to your company's General Manager.
2. Learn more about taxi cameras at: www.ptboard.bc.ca/cameras.htm.