

November 16, 2016

Taxi Soft Meters

Taxi companies in BC may now use smartphones or tablets to replace the taximeters they use to calculate the rates they charge. New “taxi soft meters” may calculate distance rates with GPS or on-board-diagnostics (OBD).

Replacing traditional taximeters with soft meters enables taxi companies to embrace technological advances associated with new cloud dispatch systems. Such advances can include improvements in customer service and accessibility.

The Board is introducing a new “[BC Taxi Soft Meter Rule](#)” that enables and contributes to service enhancements with requirements that include:

- Licensee responsibility for ensuring that taxi soft meter models perform within established accuracy tolerances that exist for traditional taximeters
- System safeguards to ensure that only Board-approved rates are charged—drivers must not be able to modify the rates or the soft meter
- Improved accessibility by requiring a “talking meter” function within 6 months of operation
- Detailed receipts that must be produced at the end of each trip

Prior to using a soft meter, taxi companies must sign a legal declaration that they will comply with these and other requirements. Local governments may also have bylaws respecting taximeters with which taxi companies must also comply. The Board will review its BC Taxi Soft Meter Rule by December 2017.

More Info

- Rule | [BC Taxi Soft Meter Rule](#)
- Rule | [Standard Rules for Taxis in BC](#)
- Web | [Mobile Apps](#)
- Q&As | [Soft Meter Q&As](#)