

Attention:
Chief Administrative Officer

Date:
November 16, 2016

Policy Change Enables Use of “Taxi Soft Meters” in BC

The Passenger Transportation (PT) Board is allowing taxi companies to replace traditional electric or mechanical taximeters with smartphones or tablets that calculate rates. “Taxi soft meters” must be as accurate and reliable as taximeters that are used now. The PT Board’s *BC Taxi Soft Meter Rule* sets out Board requirements.

The PT Board recognizes that municipalities may have by-laws pertaining to taximeters. We are advising taxi companies to check with their local governments before installing taxi soft meters.

Taxi soft meters may calculate distance rates with GPS or on-board-diagnostics (OBD). A taxi soft meter must be evaluated against the standards and tolerances established by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in [Section 5.54](#) (“Taximeters”) of its [Handbook 44](#).

Taxi soft meters must issue detailed receipts and have a “fare announcer” (talking meter) function available with 6 months of the company notifying the PT Board of its intention to use soft meters. This will assist persons with vision impairments as well as those travelling in the back of wheelchair accessible vans that may not be able to see the meter. Taxi companies are responsible for ensuring that taxi soft meters meet the requirements set out in the Board’s rule. Non-compliance may result in administrative penalties or fitness reviews.

More Info

- Rule | [BC Taxi Soft Meter Rule](#)
- Rule | [Standard Rules for Taxis in BC](#)
- Web | [Mobile Apps](#)
- Q&As | [Soft Meter Q&As](#)
- Phone | 250-953-3777
- Email | ptboard@gov.bc.ca