

Taxi Camera Programs in British Columbia

Taxi cameras are mandatory in the Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria areas. They are also authorized for use by PG Taxi in Prince George and Town Taxi in Williams Lake. In BC, taxi cameras may only be used when Board standards and requirements are met.

Why taxi cameras?

Taxi drivers are at a high risk of violence while on the job. Taxi cameras help deter crime. When a crime does occur, they help police identify suspects and prosecute criminals. Taxi cameras make it safer for taxi drivers to work, and for passengers to ride in a taxi.

How are pictures recorded?

Pictures are recorded digitally on a memory card. The memory card is stored in a sealed, secure unit inside the taxi.

Do taxi cameras work in the dark?

Yes. Taxi cameras use infrared LED technology to take pictures when ordinary cameras do not work.

Will the taxi driver see pictures of me?

No. Taxi drivers and the taxi companies cannot get the pictures at any time.

Who can see the pictures?

Only police have the security clearance, keys and passwords to get and see the pictures.

When are the pictures used?

Taxi cameras were installed to take pictures that help police investigate crimes that happen in a taxi. A crime may be against a driver or a passenger.

Police may want taxi camera pictures to help investigate a crime that happened outside a taxi. Board policy does not govern these situations. It is a matter between the taxi driver, taxi company and police. Independent legal advice may help taxi drivers and companies in these cases.

What happens to unused pictures?

After a number of days, cameras overwrite old pictures with more recent pictures. Unless police obtain images right away, they are automatically erased.

Is someone watching as I ride in a taxi?

No. Pictures cannot be monitored "live" from outside the taxi.

Can anyone listen to me in the taxi?

No. Taxi cameras do not record sound.

Want More Info?

Talk to your taxi driver or call the General Manager of the taxi company.

Or, visit www.ptboard.bc.ca/cameras.htm to learn more about taxi camera programs and requirements in BC.