

March 19, 2008

Industry Advisory

Taxi Driver Safety

Taxi driver safety is a significant issue that requires ongoing action and commitment from drivers, owners and management. The Board encourages industry to implement safety initiatives.

Taxi camera programs are operating in some parts of British Columbia to reduce attacks against taxi drivers. Taxi camera programs in BC are designed to improve taxi driver safety, help with police investigations when an incident does occur, and protect the privacy of passengers and drivers.

Other ways for taxi companies and drivers to improve driver safety include:

- Safety training for new drivers
- Periodic training of drivers in assault avoidance awareness
- Use and review of company safety policies, procedures, and incident reporting protocols
- Installation of permanent or collapsible taxi shields
- GPS taxi location monitoring systems
- Emergency GPS buttons or emergency codes

Taxi shields may be used without prior Board approval. When a shield and camera are used in the same taxi, the taxi shield must not interfere with the operation or usefulness of the taxi camera.

WorkSafeBC advises that companies have legal responsibilities for workplace safety and must have policies, procedures and engineering controls in place to reduce the risk of violence to drivers.

Additional Information & Resources:

- [Passenger Transportation Board](#) for information about [taxi camera programs and requirements](#).
- [Pacific Traffic Education Centre](#), Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) for [TaxiHost](#) training, resources and information.
- [WorkSafeBC](#): Use the [Prevention Information Line](#) for more information and resources.