

Taxi camera programs in British Columbia

Taxi cameras are mandatory in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, and in Victoria and the Capital Regional District. Taxi cameras are also authorized for use by PG Taxi in Prince George and Town Taxi in Williams Lake. Taxi cameras may only be used in British Columbia when Board-established standards are met.

Who is this information for?

Taxicab passengers and drivers.

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 catch criminals. Taxi cameras make it safer for taxi drivers to work. They also make it safer 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 unit that is secure 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?

The oldest pictures are overwritten by the newest pictures. If police do not get the pictures within a limited number of days, they are erased without anyone seeing them.

Is someone watching when I am in a taxi?

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

Can anyone listen to me?

No. Taxi cameras do not record sound.

How do I get more information?

Talk to your taxi driver. Or, call the General Manager for the taxi company.

Company Contact Information:

Also, more information is posted online at:
<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/ptb/cameras.htm>