

PUBLIC ADVISORY

THE ILLEGAL OPERATION OF PASSENGER DIRECTED VEHICLES IN B.C.

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All those seeking to provide commercial passenger transportation services in Metro Vancouver or anywhere in B.C. must respect the current regulatory and legal system in British Columbia. New “ride share” services and passenger transportation options cannot operate at the expense of passenger and driver safety.

Several companies operating under the names Longmao, Udi Kuaiche, U Drop, RaccoonGo, GoKabu, Dingdang Carpool, and AO Rideshare have developed ridesourcing apps. These companies have been recruiting drivers to operate their personal vehicles as commercial passenger directed vehicles in the Lower Mainland.

It is important that drivers providing commercial transportation services through these social media apps understand they are assuming all of the risk related to providing the service. It is the driver, not the app companies, that are operating illegally and are subject to penalties and fines of \$1,150. These drivers are also subject to possible further sanctions for not disclosing the commercial use of their vehicles to lease and insurance providers.

Passengers must know that when they hail a ride in a vehicle through these apps they are choosing to take a trip in a vehicle that has not been licenced to operate legally in British Columbia. Current provincial and municipal regulatory requirements include a regular, government approved, safety inspection of the vehicle, insurance that will cover the carrying of paying passengers and a police background check for drivers.

The Passenger Transportation Branch continues to investigate and issue penalties to these operators. To date, over 20 cease and desist orders have been issued and eight fines of \$1,150 have been given to drivers identified as operating without a licence.

If you have questions or concerns or want to make a report about these services please contact the Passenger Transportation Branch at 604-527-2198 or e-mail at passengertransportationbr@gov.bc.ca.

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