

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Information Bulletin – CPV28

Security cameras in taxis and minibuses

Introduction

To assist with driver and passenger safety, the Northern Territory Government has mandated the fitment of approved security camera (onboard) systems in all taxis and minibuses.

Approved onboard system

A taxi or minibus cannot be operated for hire or reward unless it is fitted with an onboard system (refer Table 1 for approved systems). It is the responsibility of the driver to regularly check the onboard system throughout each shift to ensure it is functioning correctly.

Onboard systems capture images of each person seated in the vehicle as well as other information such as the registration number of the vehicle and the time and date. Onboard systems may also have audio capabilities to record conversations between the driver and other persons.

Only approved camera systems can record images and audio inside the vehicle i.e. drivers cannot fit dash cams etc. to the vehicle.

Onboard system to be fitted

It is the operator's responsibility to ensure their taxi or minibus has an onboard system fitted and that the system functions correctly and has been certified by an authorised person (refer Table 2) at intervals determined by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director).

Each onboard system fitted to a vehicle must comply with the *Taxi and Minibus Security Camera Specifications* (the specifications). The specifications are available on the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics' (the Department) website.

Once a make and model of an onboard system has been approved by the Director, operators may choose to have that onboard system installed into their vehicles. Onboard system installations, including the transfer of a camera or system into a replacement taxi or minibus, can only be undertaken by an authorised person, and the system must be appropriately certified prior to operating for hire or reward.

Maintenance of onboard systems

The operator of a taxi or minibus shall keep the onboard system in good working order and have it tested and certified by an authorised person at least once every 12 months, or for a lesser period as determined by maintenance requirements, or where required by the Director or an Inspector. A *Taxi and Minibus Security Camera Certification* form (CPVF28B) is to be completed and signed by an authorised person and must be provided to the Director at the time of inspection.

Because the onboard system is required to be tested for accuracy by actual use of the onboard system in the vehicle, onboard systems must not be transferred to other vehicles without full recertification by an

authorised person. Any onboard system fitted to a vehicle must comply with the specifications that are current at the time of installation.

Taxis and minibuses are not to be operated for hire or reward if the onboard system is malfunctioning in any way, or has not been certified within the last 12 months (unless otherwise exempt by the Director). It is the operator's responsibility to provide the Commercial Passenger Vehicles Office with proof of certification every 12 months. Certifications can be emailed to cpv.compliance@nt.gov.au.

Providing notice when onboard system is not working

Taxi and minibus operators and drivers must not operate a taxi or minibus for hire or reward with an onboard system which is not functioning, unless exempt in writing by the Director. In certain circumstances, operators can seek an exemption from the requirement to have a functioning onboard system by lodging the completed [Fault Notification Report form \(CPVF28F\)](#).

Prior to operating the taxi or minibus with an onboard system that is not functioning, the operator must complete all applicable sections of form CPVF28F and submit it to the Commercial Passenger Vehicles Office. For exemption periods totalling more than seven days, the operator must ensure parts 4 and 5 of the form are completed by the relevant persons and pay any relevant fees.

On receiving a completed CPVF28F form from the operator, the Director may, if satisfied it is appropriate, exempt the operator and any driver of the taxi or minibus from relevant regulations relating to onboard systems through written instrument.

After satisfying certain requirements, an operator may submit an application retrospectively. This is to allow for instances where unforeseen events occur outside of Government business hours e.g. during weekends or public holidays. This can allow operators to continue to service the needs of clients until such time as the Director can appropriately consider the application.

When submitting a retrospective form, the operator must:

- ensure a completed and signed application form (or copy) is kept in the vehicle at all times when operating for production to an Inspector when requested; and
- submit the completed application to the Director at the first available opportunity e.g. via email to cpv.compliance@nt.gov.au or in person the first business day after the fault occurred. An application received retrospectively will not be approved where there were reasonable facilities available to first submit the application or where the operator did not complete relevant sections of the form prior to operating.

Where the Director determines that an operator has not met the prerequisites for submitting a retrospective application, the operator may be in breach of applicable law to which fines, prosecution and administrative action may be taken pursuant to the provisions of the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991*.

Access and viewing of images from onboard systems

Onboard system images and audio are only to be accessed and viewed by authorised persons or officers for an authorised purpose. Authorised persons are approved individuals who have demonstrated they are of a fit and proper character and have the training, knowledge and equipment to comply with onboard system operational requirements.

NT Police Officers and Transport Inspectors of the Department are also authorised to examine or copy an image for authorised purposes. Significant penalties apply to persons found accessing, viewing, recovering or reproducing onboard images or audio without authority.

Operator and driver responsibilities

Operators and drivers of taxis or minibuses fitted with an onboard system have a number of responsibilities which can be found in the *Northern Territory Taxi and Minibus Operational Requirements in Relation to Onboard Systems* which is published on the Department website. Persons failing to meet their obligations under these requirements may face significant penalties, including prosecution action.

Among other things, operators and drivers are to ensure that their taxi or minibus has the below sticker on display in the vehicle at all times, and that each passenger access point e.g. door, is fitted with a notice clearly advising any potential passenger that images and audio are recorded inside the vehicle. Further information on vehicle requirements can be found in the applicable in-service maintenance standards.



How to become an authorised person or supplier

To apply to become an authorised person to install, download and/or certify onboard systems, please complete the form [CPVF28A – Application to become an authorised person for taxi and minibus onboard systems](#).

To apply to become a supplier of onboard systems in the NT, please complete the form [CVPF28C – Application for approval as a security camera system supplier](#).

General information

Industry members should be familiar with the following documents published by the department:

- [Taxi and Minibus Security Camera Specifications](#); and
- [Northern Territory Taxi and Minibus Security Camera Operational Requirements in Relation to Onboard Systems](#).

This Information Bulletin is a guide only and contains general information and requirements in relation to the CPV industry. This document should not be regarded as a strict interpretation of Northern Territory law and In-Service Vehicle Maintenance Standards.

Contact Details	
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Branch	
Telephone:	08 8924 7580
Email:	cpv.admin@nt.gov.au
Web:	www.nt.gov.au/driving
Postal Address:	GPO Box 2520, Darwin NT 0801

Table 1: Approved security camera systems

Security Camera Suppliers		
Approved Supplier	Approved Security Cameras	Contact Details
Mobile Witness Australia Pty Ltd	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 02 8824 9631 Web: mobilewitness.com.au
Taxitech Pty Ltd	13Cabsi, SL304	Phone: 03 9921 0280 Web: 13cabs.com.au/TaxiTech

Table 2: Authorised persons

Authorised Persons		
Approved Agent	Security Camera System Authorised for Image Download and/or Installation	Contact Details
Darwin		
Freddy Soo Hoo Freddy's Car Installations	Cab Watch G60 series-13Cabsi, SL304	Phone: 8947 1881 or 0417 148 145 Email: freddyscarinstallations@hotmail.com
Stephen Hall Berrimah Taxis	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 0417 831 955 Email: berrimahtaxis@bigpond.com
Yashwant Sharma A2Y Auto Repairs	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 8984 3606 or 0437 495 396 Email: a2yautorepairs@gmail.com
Daniel Lee Blue Taxi Company	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 8941 1258 Email: admin@bluetaxi.com.au
Bilal Abbas	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 0406 066 449 Email: bilalabbas05@gmail.com
Nirmal Nirmal The Automotive Studio	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 0456 000 020 Email: admin@ktautocare.com.au
Ranjithkumar Nagarajah	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 08 8947 0011 Email: ranjith@me.com
Peter Cheng	Taxitech 13cabsi	Phone: 0409 204 807 Email: dj_x_qizit@hotmail.com
Alice Springs		
Raymond Tebeck Ray Tebeck Auto Electrics	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 0418 892 994 or 8953 5324 Email: raytebeck9@bigpond.com
Devender Bohra Budget Auto Repairs	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 0425 773 134 Email: dsbohra@gmail.com
Christopher Kupke Alice Springs Taxis	Cab Watch G60 series	Phone: 0407 489 754 Email: electrofixelectronics@gmail.com