



## NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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### INDUSTRY INFORMATION | INDUSTRY NOTICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industry Notice #00-08

March 2000

#### TLC AUTHORIZES IN-VEHICLE DIGITAL CAMERA AS ALTERNATIVE SECURITY DEVICE TO SATISFY FHV PARTITION REQUIREMENT

Following the successful culmination of a pilot program to test several models of in-vehicle infrared digital security cameras, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) has authorized their use in licensed for-hire vehicles as an approved alternative security device to satisfy the existing partition requirement outlined in For-Hire Vehicle Rule 6-13.

The in-vehicle security camera system takes digital photo images of the entire passenger area of the vehicle, and consists of a small camera with integrated infrared lighting that is installed above the vehicle's rear-view mirror. The infrared lighting enables the capture of digital images during the day or night. The images are time and date stamped along with the vehicle identification number, and are stored in a small controller unit securely installed elsewhere in the vehicle. The data is encrypted to prevent tampering and may only be accessed by authorized individuals through a proprietary software package. The system is designed to enhance driver safety by acting as a deterrent to crime and as an effective tool in identifying those who commit crime.

In addition to our current enforcement efforts, the TLC and NYPD will begin an enhanced FHV enforcement initiative targeting partition violations beginning May 2, 2000.

The two approved models are the Verifeye Taxi-Cam model #1500, and the Raywood Snapshot model RDC 2010. Additional models may be approved in the future, following a similar evaluation of their compliance with TLC specifications. For-hire vehicle (FHV) owners are advised that, if they do not meet the criteria for exemption (detailed below), they are directed to comply with FHV Rule 6-13 through the use of either an approved model partition, or an approved model camera, along with the additional requirements set forth in FHV Rule 6-13.

#### Section 6-13: Partitions

A for-hire vehicle base and a for-hire vehicle owner shall be jointly and severally responsible for compliance with the following provisions and liable for violation thereof. No for-hire vehicle shall be used in the course of operations of a for-hire vehicle service unless the vehicle is in compliance with the following:

- (a) A for-hire vehicle shall be equipped with a partition and a protective plate which would isolate the driver from the rear seat passengers, unless the owner is exempt pursuant to paragraphs (2), (3) or (4) of this subdivision.
  - n **(1)** The partition shall be made of lexan, margard or other polycarbonate material not less than 0.375 inches thick extending upward from the back of the front seat to the ceiling of the vehicle. There shall be a provision for communication with passengers and for a money slot while the partition is closed. Such partition may be able to be partially opened by the driver, as long as the driver can fully close the partition at any time. A for-hire vehicle owner shall also equip the vehicle with a 0.085-inch thick plate of ballistic steel or its equivalent, installed inside the back rest of the front seat. The plate shall cover the complete back rest area which is exposed to the rear seat compartment.
  - n **(2)** The vehicle shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (1) if: **(i)** the vehicle is driven only by the vehicle owner, and **(ii)** the vehicle is equipped with a FCC-licensed commercial two-way radio with an emergency button that would notify the dispatcher that the driver is in trouble, or the vehicle is equipped with some other device specifically approved by the Chairperson to satisfy this requirement, and **(iii)** the owner has not previously been found in violation of this rule with respect to the subject vehicle.
  - n **(3)** A for-hire vehicle shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (1) if the vehicle is affiliated only with a black car base or a luxury limousine base.
  - n **(4)** A for-hire vehicle shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (1) if the vehicle is equipped with at least the following two safety devices: (i) a FCC-licensed commercial two-way radio with an emergency button that would notify the dispatcher that the driver was in trouble, and (ii) some other device specifically approved by the Chairperson to satisfy this requirement, in addition to the trouble light required by Rule 6-13(b).

Upon conviction, the penalty for the violation of Rule 6-13 is a \$350 fine, and suspension until compliance.

For information on the Raywood Snapshot model RDC 2010, vehicle owners may call the unit's authorized distributor Herb Schwartz at 1-914-243-5311.

For information on the Verifeye Taxi-Cam model #1500, vehicle owners may call Steve Holmes at 1-888-VERIFEYE (1-888-837-4339).