



The Fleet Manager's Guide to BC's Dashcam Law

What Bill M217 requires, whether it applies to your fleet, and how to get compliant before the six-month clock runs out, plus how to book a free compliance assessment.



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SECTION 1

Why This Bill Matters

British Columbia is about to become the first province in Canada to legally require dashcams in commercial vehicles. Here's the story behind the law, and why it's worth taking seriously now, not later.

Where it came from

Bill M217, the *Dashboard Cameras in Commercial Vehicles Act*, was introduced by Kamloops–North Thompson MLA Ward Stamer. He began advocating for mandatory commercial dashcams back in 2023, while serving as mayor of Barriere, after a series of fatal collisions involving commercial trucks on Highway 5. The bill passed all three readings in the BC Legislature in May 2026 with unanimous, all-party support, a rare outcome for new regulation, and a signal of how seriously the province is treating highway safety.

“Dash cameras save lives. They hold drivers accountable. And they make sure that when a crash happens, the evidence is there.”

- Ward Stamer, MLA, sponsor of Bill M217

Why it's not just a compliance box to check

The BC Trucking Association has pointed to a statistic that reframes what this law is really about: commercial drivers are found not at fault in roughly 75–80% of collisions involving their vehicles. A compliant dashcam isn't only a legal requirement, it's evidence that protects your drivers and your business when something happens that wasn't your fault.

1st

Province in Canada to mandate commercial dash cams

75–80%

Of collisions where commercial drivers are found not at fault (BC Trucking Association)

~65,000

Heavy commercial vehicles estimated to operate in BC

The bottom line: This law was built around real collisions and real evidence gaps. Getting ahead of it protects your fleet legally and operationally, not just on paper.

SECTION 2

What Bill M217 Actually Requires

The Act itself is short and technology-neutral. It's five sections that establish who's responsible and what a compliant system needs to do. Here's the baseline, in plain language.

Requirement	Specification
Camera direction	Forward/road-facing only, recording the view through the front windshield
Minimum resolution	1080p HD or higher
Night vision	Required, for low-light and nighttime recording
Video retention	Minimum 72 hours of continuous footage stored
Camera obstruction	Lens must remain unobstructed at all times during operation
Recording	Must record continuously while the vehicle is being operated

Note on driver-facing cameras: Bill M217 does **not** require inward/driver-facing cameras. The legislation was deliberately limited to outward-facing systems after privacy concerns were raised during committee review. Any inward-facing camera a fleet chooses to add voluntarily is subject to BC's Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA).

Is Your Fleet Affected?

The mandate applies to "commercial vehicles" as defined under BC's Commercial Transport Act, combined with a weight threshold set out in the bill. If any of the following apply to you, Bill M217 applies to your operations, even if your company isn't based in BC.

- ✓ Your vehicles have a licensed gross vehicle weight over **11,793 kg (about 26,000 lb)**
- ✓ Your vehicles carry goods for hire on BC roads
- ✓ You're an NSC (National Safety Code) carrier operating under a BC carrier licence
- ✓ You're based in Alberta, Saskatchewan, the US, or elsewhere but run routes through BC
- ✓ You lease commercial vehicles. The lessee assumes the compliance obligation, not the owner
- ✓ You operate in construction, landscaping, HVAC, contracting, or delivery with mobile fleets that meet the weight threshold

Not sure if you're affected? Tell us your fleet size and where you operate, and we'll confirm your compliance requirements and give you a clear plan of action, at no cost and with no obligation. See page 5 to get started.

SECTION 3

The Compliance Timeline

Bill M217 passed its third reading in the BC Legislature with unanimous support in May 2026. Before it becomes enforceable law, it needs Royal Assent, the Lieutenant Governor's formal sign-off. Once that happens, a strict six-month countdown begins.

Milestone	Status
Bill introduced	2025, 43rd Parliament
Passed third reading (unanimous, all-party support)	May 2026
Royal Assent	Pending, expected in the near term
Regulations published (enforcement, exemptions, penalties)	Expected within 6-12 months of Royal Assent
Law in force / compliance deadline	6 months after Royal Assent (projected late 2026 / early 2027)

Important: As of this guide's publication, Royal Assent has not yet been granted, and the specific fines and enforcement procedures have not been finalized. Those will be set by the Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) branch of the BC Ministry of Transportation, which already has authority to inspect vehicles and issue out-of-service orders under existing transport legislation. The six-month clock starts the day Royal Assent is granted, not before. We'll keep you updated as details are confirmed.

How to Get Compliant

Six months sounds like a comfortable runway, until installation demand across the province spikes as every fleet races to comply at once. Here's the practical path.

- 1 Audit your fleet.** Identify which vehicles meet the weight threshold and operate on or through BC roads.
- 2 Choose compliant hardware.** Pick a system that meets or exceeds the resolution, retention, and night-vision specs, and integrates with the telematics platform you already use.
- 3 Schedule installation.** Book certified installers before the province-wide rush. Lead times and install slots tighten fast once the clock starts.
- 4 Brief your drivers.** Update policies so drivers understand recording obligations and camera-obstruction rules.
- 5 Document everything.** Keep records of install dates, hardware specs, and maintenance for CVSE inspections.

SECTION 4

We Can Help - Get Your Free Assessment

You don't have to figure this out alone. Connected Vehicles is a certified Geotab partner and installer, we configure your system, integrate it with your existing operations, and stay with you after go-live.

What you get with Connected Vehicles

Compliant, and then some

Road-facing cameras that exceed all Bill M217 requirements. Built for regulatory and insurance-grade evidence.

AI-powered detection

Distraction, fatigue, phone use, and collision risk detected in real time, with up to 99% accuracy and instant in-cab alerts.

Already on Geotab?

We transfer your existing account and layer in video telematics. Your historical data stays intact.

Extended storage

Up to 365 days of video in MyGeotab, far beyond the 72-hour legal minimum.

Optional driver-facing cameras

Not required by law, but available. Fully configurable, with privacy rules respected.

Installation anywhere in Canada

Certified technicians on-site nationwide, or ship-to-site with full instructions.

Not sure if you're affected, or where to start?

- ✓ We'll confirm whether Bill M217 applies to your fleet based on your vehicles and routes
- ✓ We'll map out exactly what compliant hardware you need, no guesswork
- ✓ We'll give you a clear installation plan and timeline, before the province-wide rush
- ✓ No cost, no obligation

BOOK MY FREE ASSESSMENT →

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