



## **The Benefits of Vehicle Mounted Video Recording Systems**

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## **1.1 Introduction**

Evicam International Inc. was formed to develop advanced Video Event Data Recorders for the Transportation and Insurance Industries. We have joined the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Working Group on event data recorders to gather information and to learn from others involved in this same area of technology. We would also like to contribute our thoughts and ideas for discussion, which will hopefully have an impact on the advancement of Event Data Recorders in the coming years. We look forward to working with the NHTSA, Automotive Manufacturers and other EDR companies in determining the most efficient methods of utilizing this technology for social and economic benefits, while protecting the integrity of the data and the privacy of those who choose to use it.

## **1.2 Background**

Event Data Recorders have been introduced in vehicles over the last decade in varying forms. Manufacturers have begun installing EDR's for air bag deployment and data analysis, to be used in designing more efficient safety systems in the future. Recently, the concept of Video Event Data Recorders has been introduced. We believe that this new technology, deploying cameras to capture events surrounding a vehicular accident, will provide detailed evidence never before available. This video will allow faster, more accurate and more detailed investigations, which will in turn save time, money and resources.

## **1.3 Benefits of Vehicle Mounted Video Recording Systems**

There are both social and economic benefits to using EDR's. The social impact of improved Event Data Recorders will be fewer accidents, safer vehicles, less injuries and the potential to save many lives each year. Research has shown that vehicles equipped with EDR's have lower accident rates, less severe accidents and better driver behavior.

The economic benefits of EDR's will be numerous also. Insurance Companies and policyholders will see lower costs of insurance due to the use of EDR's. These saving will be realized as a result of a reduction in insurance fraud, streamlined accident investigations, and increased efficiency in settling claims.

These benefits will include:

- Lower accident rates
- More efficient and accurate accident investigations
- More detailed data available for analysis
- Safer driver behavior

- Decrease in injury and death rates
- First hand physical evidence of accident circumstances
- A reduction in Road rage due to accountability
- A reduction in the cost of insurance
- Protection of innocent drivers' deductibles and driving records
- Higher quality customer service for policyholders and claimants
- Concrete evidence to fight fraudulent claims
- A deterrent to accident fraud, due to increased risk of prosecution
- Video evidence of hit and run incidents
- Fewer scene investigations required by insurers
- Lower expenses for Special Investigation Units
- Fewer court cases resulting from car accidents
- Increase in efficiency of insurance company and fleet operations

## 1.4 Other Considerations

As discussed in earlier Working Group sessions, one of the primary drawbacks to EDR's is the use of the data that is recorded and the privacy of those drivers who choose to utilize it. If EDR's are to be widely accepted, the data that is recorded must be securely stored, accessed ONLY by authorized personnel, and protected from abuse. If drivers believe that the EDR in their own vehicle may be used against them, there will be apprehension in the use of this technology. In using EDR's, the main incentive for fleets and individuals is a financial incentive. We believe that Insurance Companies, Law Enforcement and Fleet Managers should have access to EDR data for investigative and civil uses only, i.e. determining who pays an insurance claim and receives a citation. Only under extreme circumstances should the data be allowed to be used against the driver for other than insurance purposes and

## 1.5 Evicam's Technology

Evicam International, Inc. is developing two core technologies relating to Event Data recorders. We have named two of our products "EVICAM" and EVISCAN".

The **EVICAM**, or "evidence camera" is a completely secure, multi-camera digital video recording system designed to operate as an accident surveillance system. The technical name of this product is the Secure, Vehicle Mounted, Incident Recording System. This device will capture the minutes leading up to, including and following a crash. It will provide accident investigators and insurance companies with a secure, permanent record of the events surrounding a crash for evidentiary purposes.

The **EVISCAN** is a multi-camera, digital video recording and surveillance system designed to protect a vehicle around the clock from cargo theft, vehicle theft, vandalism or hit-and-run incidents. This device is equipped with transmission capability and will automatically notify authorities and transmit real-time video in the event of a security breach or accident involving the host vehicle. This will speed emergency response to host

vehicles and protect the driver and occupants, the vehicle, and the cargo or contents being transported. The technical name of this product is the Secure, Vehicle Mounted Surveillance System.

We believe that the use of these advanced Event Data Recorders will be of great benefit to Insurance Companies, Law Enforcement, Fleet Managers and Government Agencies.

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