



# TRANSIT POLICE COVERT OPERATIONS

Effective Date: May 9, 2005  
Revised: October 31, 2005; November 22, 2024  
Reviewed date:  
Review Frequency: As needed  
Office of Primary Responsibility: Inspector Investigation

## POLICY

### Definitions

Closed-circuit television (“CCTV”) – A system that uses video cameras to send television signals to a specific limited viewership. Unlike broadcast television, CCTV does not openly transmit its signal to the public but rather between set points that are decided by the camera’s owner or operator.

FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement  
[Redacted]

FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement, s.16 - Harm to Intergovernmental Relations  
[Redacted]

FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement  
[Redacted]

DEMS – Per Ministerial Order No. M389/2021, the information management system provided by PRIMECORP (Police Records Information Management Environment Incorporated) required to be used by law enforcement services as a digital evidence management system to capture, collect, upload, manage, share and disclose digital evidence.

Member – Designated Constable (all ranks), Deputy Chief Officers, and Chief Officer of the Transit Police.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police (“Transit Police”) – The operating name of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (Designated Policing Unit and Designated Law Enforcement Unit).

OCC – Operations Communication Centre for the Transit Police.

Operational Security – The practice of guarding against the disclosure or exposure of

police capabilities or intentions that could jeopardize current or future investigations.

Plain clothes Officer – An on-duty police officer dressed in non-uniform clothing (“plain clothes”).

Project – A medium- to long-term police operation which requires an element of planning that extends beyond day to day enforcement or investigation, or that constitutes a series of continuous actions of an extended nature.

RMS – The approved Records Management System, records management policy and procedures used by Transit Police.

Surveillance Officer – A police officer trained in surveillance, who monitors and records one or more targets that will provide intelligence or evidence in an investigation.

FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement  
[Redacted]

Transit Police Personnel – For the purposes of this policy, Members and civilian professionals of the Transit Police.

Undercover Operation (“UCO”) – A form of covert operation involving the deployment of one or more undercover operators. To act “undercover” is to assume a cover identity in order to hide a Member’s true identity as a police officer.

FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement  
[Redacted]

**General and Authority**

1. Covert operations conducted by Transit Police will be undertaken in full compliance with constitutional and other legal requirements, and the procedures in this policy chapter.
2. Cooperation with the Jurisdictional Police Department (“JPD”) should be considered when covert operations are undertaken, and Members will notify the JPD about when and where Transit Police covert operations are about to take place.

**PROCEDURES**

**Authorization – Plain Clothes Operations**

3. Members who do not normally deploy in plain clothes will seek approval of their Sergeant and Watch Commander, and/or the Staff Sergeant Investigation Support, in order to deploy in plain clothes in support of a covert operation. (See also Transit Police [SOP76 – Patrol Plain Clothes Deployment.](#))

**Authorization – Covert Operations**

- 4. FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement



- 5.

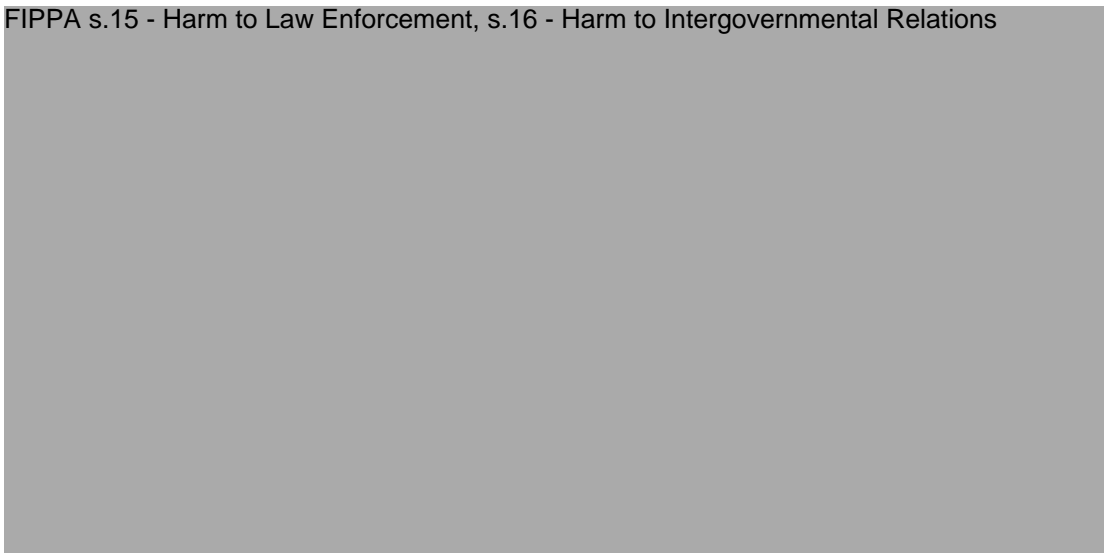
**Safety**

- 6. In all covert operations, the safety of the public and police officers is paramount.
- 7. Members and Transit Police Community Safety Officers will not acknowledge covert or surveillance personnel in a public place unless first acknowledged by the covert or surveillance officer.

**Undercover Operations**

- 8. Undercover Operations (“UCOs”) conducted by Transit Police will:
  - (1) Be undertaken in full compliance with constitutional and other legal requirements;

FIPPA s.15 - Harm to Law Enforcement, s.16 - Harm to Intergovernmental Relations



FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

**Patrol-initiated Minor Undercover Operations**

- 9. A Patrol Member proposing a project requiring the use of a UCO for a minor undercover operation (e.g. buy & bust) will:

FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

- 10. FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

**Retention of Ops Plans**

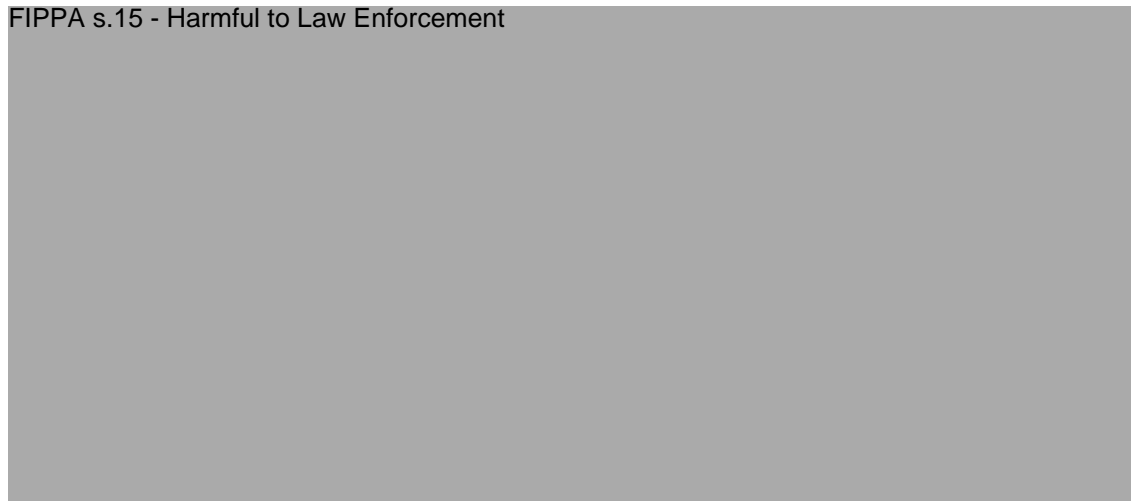
- 11. Project proposals/Ops Plan for UCOs will be securely held in the Digital Evidence Management System (“DEMS”) and must include:

FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

**Covert Surveillance – GPS Trackers**

- 12. FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement




13.

14.


15.

FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement



16.

FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement



FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

18.

**Covert Surveillance – CCTV**

19. FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement

20.

21.

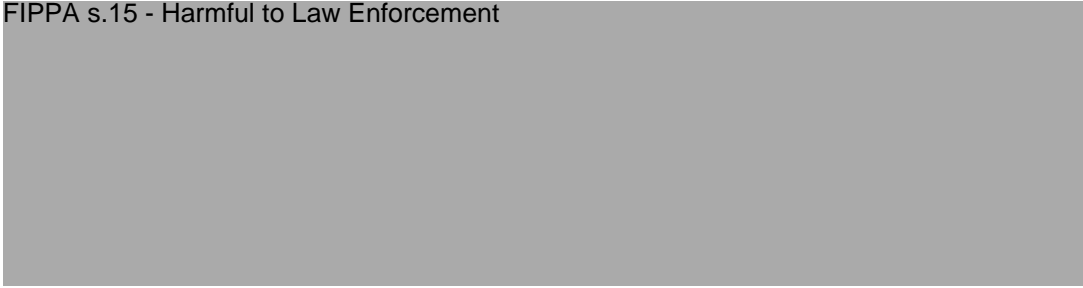
22.

23.

**Covert Surveillance in Areas with Reasonable Expectation of Privacy**

24. In instances where surveillance is to occur in areas where a reasonable expectation of privacy may exist:

FIPPA s.15 - Harmful to Law Enforcement



**References:**

- Transit Police [SOP76 – Patrol Plain Clothes Deployment](#)
- Transit Police Policy [OD050 – Confidential Informants](#)
- Transit Police Policy [OD220 – Operational Plans](#)
- Transit Police Policy [OF010 – Evidence \(and DEMS\)](#)
- Transit Police Policy [OK070 – Joint Forces Operations](#)
- Transit Police Form [OZ0090 – Operational Planning Report](#)
- 2020 Transit Police – JPD [Memorandum of Understanding](#)