

Institute of Advanced Motorists

Guidance on Use of Recording Devices

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IAM RoadSmart guidance document on the use of recording devices.

1. Document aims

1.1 The aims of this guidance document are:

- To promote a culture of acceptance for the use of recording devices in training.
- To reduce confusion as to when they may be used.
- To provide a common framework for all groups, examiners, assessors and staff to use.

2. Background

2.1 There have been instances when IAM observers or associates have wanted to use video recording devices to show a drive or ride to provide meaningful and accurate feedback.

2.2 There have also been instances where associates have conducted covert filming of observers and examiners without their knowledge.

2.3 The correct use of video clips can be used to show an associate how they are progressing and the areas they need to work on to prepare for their test.

3. Overarching principles

3.1 The IAM embraces the use of video recording devices for all forms of associate and observer training. In certain circumstances it may be required to have the device active during the test as a condition of insurance. An examiner will make every effort to accommodate this. **The footage of the test must not be shared on social media and will not be used post-test to influence the result. The decision of the examiner is final.**

3.2 Safety is always paramount in relation to the location the device is mounted, and the distraction must be minimalised.

3.3 Any recording must be conducted with the permission of all parties involved in the training. Permission must be gained before the recording equipment is used.

3.4 Recordings are for the use of training only and should not be shared through any form of media, unless all parties have provided permission.

4. Guidance

- 4.1 The use of recording devices can provide useful feedback on performance for both observers and associates.
- 4.2 They should be positioned in or on the vehicle to provide minimal distraction to the driver/rider.
- 4.3 They must be secured properly so that they do not become detached whilst driving (cold windscreens sometimes push devices off as the air under the sucker warms up).
- 4.4 Nothing the observer does or says should cause a problem, therefore it is suggested that IAM observers and ASDMs do not object to the use of a recording device if requested by an associate. If an examiner has an issue with a device being used, they should contact their ASDM for advice.
- 4.5 If an associate is unhappy with an observer using a recording device, the benefits should be explained and if they are still reticent, the device should not be used.
- 4.6 Most recording devices do not provide a true representation of what the human eye sees. There may be discrepancies regarding what is seen on the video clip as opposed to what was seen at the time. The purpose of the clip is to enhance the observations and not create conflict.
- 4.7 The use of recording devices is an individual or group decision. The IAM does not promote any make or model above others or dictate where and how they are attached.
- 4.8 The use of helmet mounted cameras is not recommended on motorcycles. Whilst it provides a more natural 'eye level' view, the consequences of attaching anything to a safety helmet could lead to injury or death. It was not designed to be worn in that way by the helmet manufacturer. Research conducted by the IAM with several helmet manufacturers suggests that they do not recommend that cameras are fitted to their helmets, even though the camera manufacturer has specifically designed mounts for this purpose.