

Unlicensed vehicles in urban areas: Main causes and measures to be taken by authorities

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Abstract: “Unlicensed vehicle” is the term given to any passenger car, minivan, pedicab, motorised tricycle, tricycle for the disabled or any other vehicle used without the authorisation of the national motor vehicle licensing department. According to non-exhaustive statistics from public security services throughout the country, more than 490,000 vehicles are now circulating without a license in medium and large Chinese cities. The lucrative, illegal activities carried out by unlicensed vehicles threaten the proper functioning of the passenger transportation system as well as law and order in general. They also result in the loss of state income and destabilise the market. Moreover these practices compromise the rights and welfare of licensed taxi drivers by creating unfair competition resulting in their discontentment and, in turn, leading to unrest. Furthermore, there is a considerable underlying threat to security since in certain areas this thriving business has given rise to the emergence of mafia networks.

This paper analyses the source of the problem and suggests six major steps to be taken by authorities:

1. Specific operations to effectively reduce the number of unlicensed vehicles.
2. Optimal and efficient performance of law enforcement services in the long term. Urban law enforcement and transportation departments must be the main authorities responsible for reducing the number of unlicensed vehicles.
3. Amendment of loopholes in existing laws and regulations to provide a legal framework for reducing the number of unlicensed vehicles.
4. Improvements in working conditions to protect the rights and welfare of licensed taxi drivers.
5. Introduction of new and more efficient technology to reduce the number of unlicensed vehicles.
6. A more effective distribution of resources to reduce the black market for unlicensed vehicles.

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