

January 14, 2004

## Firms Focus on Camera-Phone Issues in Workplace

As camera phones grow in popularity, some companies are banning the high-tech gadgets from their buildings to protect trade secrets and employee privacy, USA Today reports.

The devices allow users to snap photos and send them to others. The growing use of camera phones has raised concerns about security and privacy and employers are eyeing restrictions or outright bans on the phones in the workplace.

"What makes the technology worrisome to employers is it has the ability to capture and transmit images so fast," says Scott McDonald, a labor lawyer in Dallas. "In the old world, you would take a picture with a small camera and smuggle it out."

DaimlerChrysler prohibits employees and others from bringing camera phones in any of its buildings, according to the newspaper. Texas Instruments allows the phones, but bars employees from taking pictures.

*USA Today*