

Window Tinting

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For further information please write to the Manager – Vehicle Safety & Policy
60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101 or contact your local Customer Service Centre.

Introduction

Regulation 257 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 requires all modifications to a vehicle to either have specific approval from VicRoads or to be carried out in accordance with guidelines published by VicRoads. Application of tinting film to windows on a motor vehicle is a modification.

This document is a published guideline for the purposes of Regulation 257 and generally applies to all vehicles.

General

Safe driving requires the driver to have the best possible vision of the road and other road users. Any reduction in driver vision, particularly in poor light conditions, such as twilight or wet weather conditions, will lead to a reduction in safety.

Tinted windows can significantly reduce driver vision. This is likely to be more critical for the elderly and other people with even minor vision disabilities. Therefore, it is desirable that the light transmittance of windows on a motor vehicle is not reduced below the level as supplied by the vehicle manufacturer.

Nevertheless, windows on motor vehicles are often tinted with the intention of reducing heat, glare, and ultraviolet light transmittance into the cabin of the vehicle. However, tint films may not significantly reduce the transmittance of ultraviolet light into the vehicle as the glazing material used in the windows of motor vehicles already blocks out most of the ultraviolet light. While a tint film may have some effect in reducing heat transmittance into the vehicle it can also cause an increase in cabin temperature by retaining heat in the vehicle.

The glazing material used in the windows of many new vehicles is manufactured with a slight tint. Therefore, if applying a tint film to a window, care should be taken to select a tint film which will not cause the light transmittance of the window, to which the film is applied, to fall below the figures specified in this information sheet. The following requirements must be complied with if the windows of a motor vehicle are to be tinted.

Windscreen

Windscreens fitted to motor vehicles manufactured before July 1971 must transmit at least 70% of visible light. All other motor vehicles must comply with Australian Design Rule (ADR) 8 - Safety Glazing Material which requires the windscreen to have a light transmittance of at least 75%. However, only windscreens tinted during the manufacturing process are acceptable.

Note

It is permissible for windscreens to have tinted bands of less than 75% light transmittance above the primary vision area. In cases where this band is more than 65mm deep, and extends into the wiper arc area or beyond the top 10% of the windscreen height, evidence may be required to show that the tint does not extend into the primary vision area as defined in Australian Design Rule (ADR) 8 - Safety Glazing Material.

Windows

All windows of a motor vehicle, other than windscreens, available to the driver to obtain a view of the road or other road users must have a light transmittance of at least 35%. However it is desirable that the light transmittance of windows to the side and ahead of the driver is not reduced below 70%.

Note

Windows above or behind the driver's seating position on some buses are not in the driver's field of view and need not comply with the above light transmittance requirement.

The reflectance of any window fitted with tinting film must not be more than 10% (which effectively is the same as untreated glass).

A vehicle fitted with a tinted windscreen or window which is not in accordance with the requirements set out in this information sheet is unroadworthy, and subject to the consequences thereof unless the vehicle has been constructed for a special purpose and has been granted an exemption from these requirements by VicRoads.