



Vehicle Safety Branch Information Bulletin

Window Tinting

It is important that the driver of the motor vehicle has the clearest possible view of the road, particularly in poor lighting conditions, at dusk, at night, or whilst driving in heavy rain.

Also of importance is the need for pedestrians or other motorists to be able to make eye contact with the driver at intersections.

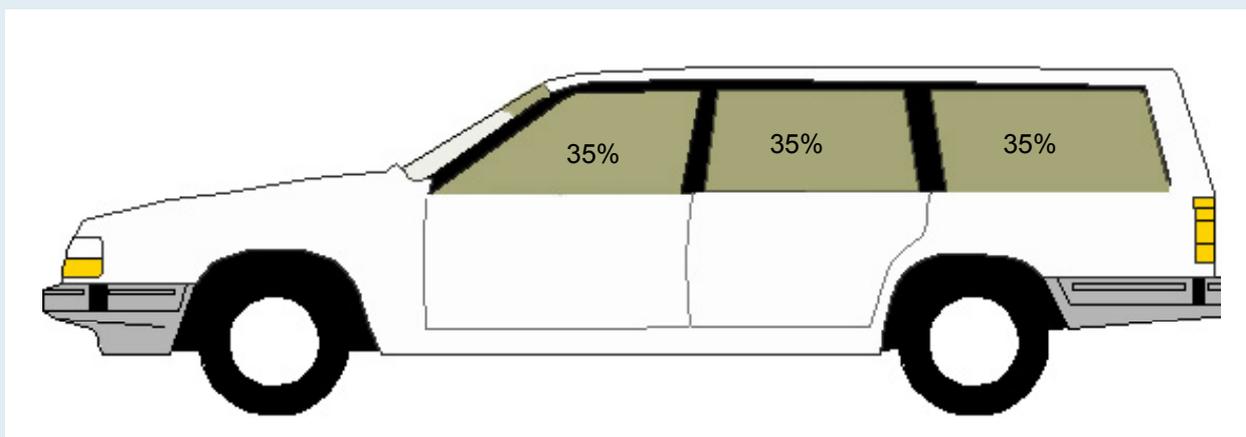
In recognition of these concerns the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002 restricts the level of tinting that may be applied to vehicle glazing.

Up until October 2004 most vehicles were restricted to using a tint where the overall transmittance was no more than 35% visible light transmission* (VLT). This policy has been relaxed in WA and a vehicle owner considering applying a tinted membrane to existing glazing may now use the following guidelines.

** Visible light transmission (VLT) is the measure of the amount of light that passes through a window. 35% VLT means 35% of the available light passes through both the window and the tint membrane together, and the rest of the light is blocked.*

Note that for any vehicle to have darker tinted windows permitted, it must have external rear vision mirrors fitted to both sides of the vehicle.

Passenger vehicles



Tinted films are not allowed on the main part of the windscreen. A tinted band across the top of the windscreen is permitted providing it is above the portion of the windscreen swept by the wipers and it does not intrude into the primary vision area of the windscreen. The band area must not be more than 10% of the windscreen area unless the Vehicle Safety Branch has provided written permission.



Window tinting is allowed on side and rear windows, however the vehicle tint industry and road safety experts agree that tint darker than 35% visible light transmission (VLT) is undesirable for passenger type vehicles.

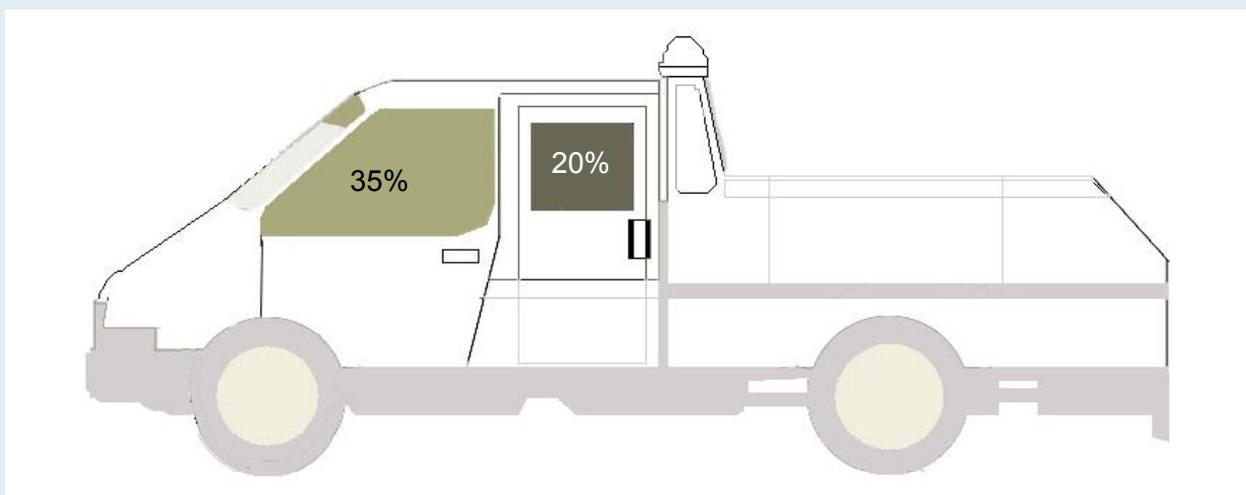
Generally if you have a passenger vehicle that has a tint applied which results in less than 35% VLT you will be breaking the law. You may be subject to receiving a compliance notice or an immediate fine for contravening the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002.

Tinted film must not be reflective or mirror like as it can dazzle other drivers by reflecting sunlight or headlight beams. The Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 limit the reflectance of window tint film to 10%. Again, you may be subject to receiving a compliance notice or an immediate fine for contravening the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002.

Exemptions for Trucks, Commercial Vehicles and Buses

Goods-carrying commercial vehicles such as trucks and utilities are designed to be fitted with bodies or trays to carry a load behind the driver, while buses and coaches generally have long bodies and side and rear windows high off the ground.

They include “LE”, “NA”, “NB”, “NC”, “MD” and “ME” Australian Design Rules category vehicles. These vehicle codes are stamped on the vehicle’s compliance plate. The compliance plate is the small aluminum plate normally found in the engine bay, about the front door pillars, or in the case of NC, MD and ME category vehicles, inside the vehicle cab area on the drivers side.

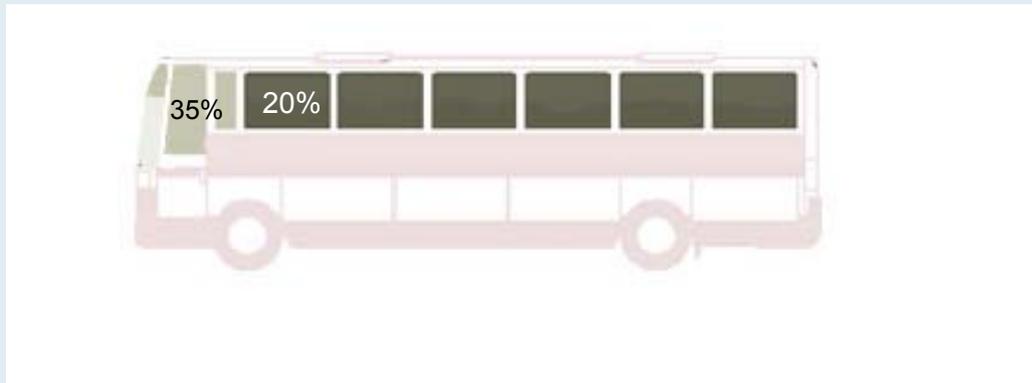


Unlike a conventional passenger sedan, which has been designed for the driver to see through the rear windows when driving, in these types of vehicles the driver does not necessarily need to see through the rear windows when driving if external rear vision mirrors are fitted to both sides of the vehicle.



Therefore a minimum VLT of less than 35% is allowed on windows rearward of the driver (or the "B" pillar) for the following categories of vehicles:

- 3 wheeled L-group vehicle (LE)
 - LEG 1 over 450kg unladen mass; one wheel at front, two at the rear
 - LEG 2 over 450kg unladen mass; two wheels at front, one at the rear
- Light goods vehicles (NA)
Gross vehicle mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.
- Medium goods vehicle (NB)
Gross vehicle mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12.0 tonnes.
- Heavy goods vehicle (NC)
Gross vehicle mass exceeding 12.0 tonnes.
- Light omnibus (MD)
Gross vehicle mass not exceeding 5.0 tonnes, 10 or more seating positions.
- Heavy omnibus (ME)
Gross vehicle mass exceeding 5.0 tonnes, 10 or more seating positions.



The requirement for the tinted band across the top of the windscreen have a band area not be more than 10% of the windscreen area is waived for these particular commercial vehicles with large windscreens.

Windows beside the driver must still have at least 35% VLT.

Each vehicle must be fitted with two rear vision mirrors, one on each side, to allow the driver to have adequate vision to the rear.



Exemptions for certain classes of vehicles

Certain vehicles such as ambulances, hearses and stretch limousines may be granted exemptions so that they can have darker tint behind the "B" pillar. They will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Conditions may be placed on such an exemption and a fee may be charged.

The windows beside the driver must still have at least 35% VLT.



Other Exemptions

Exemptions to this policy may also be granted on medical grounds subject to documentary evidence being provided.

Applications for an exemption should be addressed to:

Vehicle Safety Branch
Department for Planning and Infrastructure
21 Murray Road South
WELSHPOOL 6106

Phone 9351 1687
Fax 9351 1699