



## **Vehicle Safety Branch Information Bulletin**

# **Window Tinting (Attaching film to surface of Glass)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this Bulletin is to outline the requirements for window tinting film on vehicles.

Film attached to the glass may include tint, perforated artwork, advertising stickers, labels, logos, decals and any other form such as paint etc.

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.

The Road Traffic Code 2000 requires drivers to have an uninterrupted and undistracted view of the road and any traffic ahead and on each side of him or her; and he or she can obtain, in a rear-vision mirror or mirrors attached to the vehicle, a clear reflected view of every overtaking vehicle.

In recognition of the above, the West Australian 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 less 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.

### **POLICY**

#### **All 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 and Standards Section have provided written permission.

***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.***



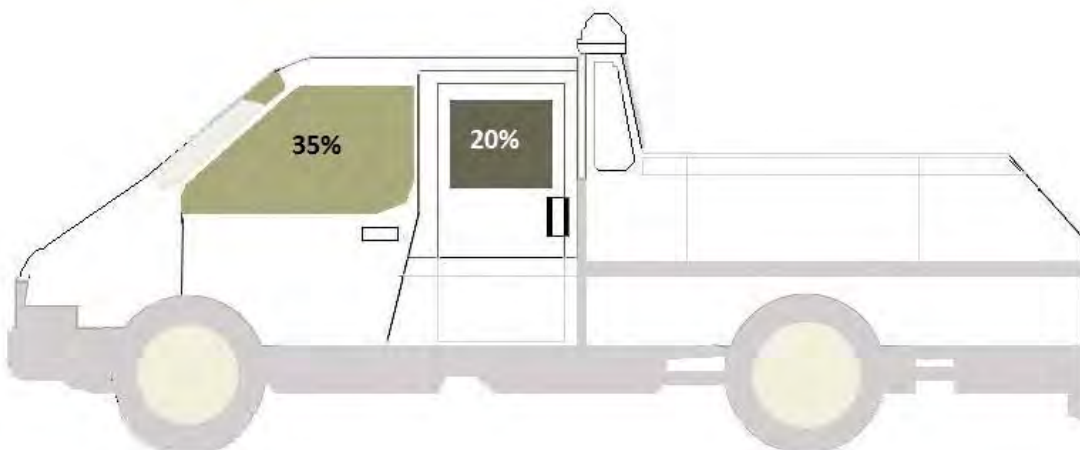
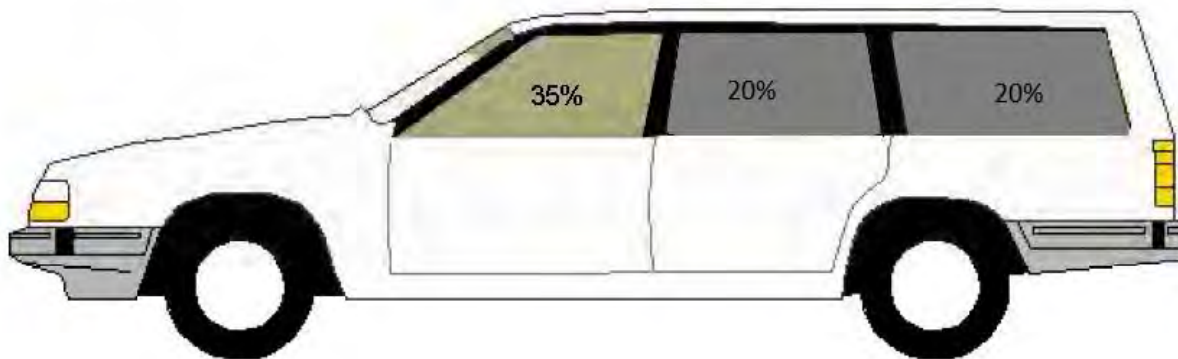
## Passenger Vehicles

A minimum of 20% VLT tint can now be applied to windows behind the B pillar provided that external rear vision mirrors complying with ADR14 are fitted to the exterior on each side of the vehicle.

**Note: All windows whether tint has been applied or not forward of the "B" pillar must have a VLT of at least 35%.**

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.

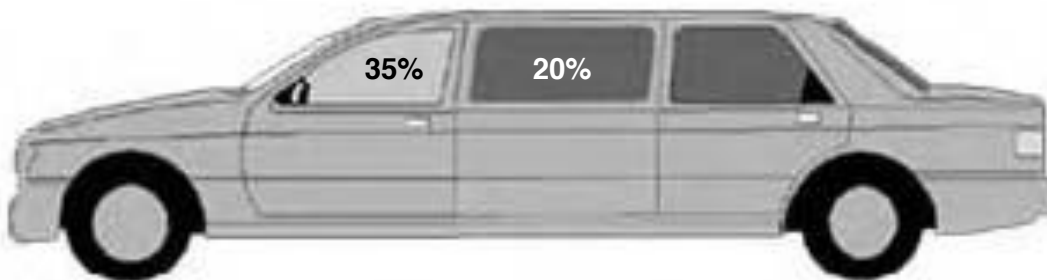
Fitment of clear film (security film etc.) to the glass of vehicles is acceptable provided the VLT (as applicable) is maintained.





### ***Stretched Limousines***

- Stretched limousines are permitted to have windows tinted to less than 35% VLT but not less than 20% VLT installed to glass behind the "B" pillar (see below). **All windows whether tint has been applied or not forward of the "B" pillar must have a VLT of at least 35%.**



### ***Privacy Glass***

- For vehicles fitted with existing tinted (privacy) glass of VLT less than 20%, Vehicle Safety and Standards **may grant** an exemption to allow the fitment of film with a VLT of less than 20% behind the "B" pillar, for the purpose of matching the tint on the existing glass. **Exemptions of this type will be considered on a case-by-case basis.**
- **No exemption will be granted for the glass forward of the "B" pillar.**



***Exemptions for special types of vehicle***

- Van type vehicles that are available as a manufacturer's option with metal panels rearward of the B pillar instead of windows are allowed to reduce the VLT to 0%.

**All windows whether tint has been applied or not forward of the "B" pillar must have a VLT of at least 35%.**

Certain vehicles such as ambulances, hearses and coroners' vehicles have a special need for privacy and are permitted to have window tinting film of less than 20% VLT behind the "B" pillar.

Exemptions apply for the vehicles and glazing locations listed below:

- (a) ambulances
- (b) hearses
- (c) trailers, including caravans
- (d) sunroofs and glazings located in the roof of a vehicle
- (e) all glazings of the upper deck of a double-deck vehicle

**All windows whether tint has been applied or not forward of the "B" pillar must have a VLT of at least 35%.**

**Note: That any film (tinted or clear) attached to the glass will usually reduce UV that passes through the glass to less than 1%.**

***Medical Exemptions***

Exemptions to this policy may also be granted on medical grounds subject to documentary evidence being provided from a medical specialist. Applications for an exemption should be addressed to:

Department of Transport  
Vehicle Safety and Standards  
21 Murray Road South  
WELSHPOOL 6106

Telephone 13 11 56  
Facsimile (08) 9216 3899