

SUBJECT: Window Tinting

Managers, Victoria	Carrier Safety Inspectors	Driver Services Centres
Motor Vehicle Inspectors	Government Agents	MOT (Director, Chair, Transportation Policy)
Motor Carrier Commission	Appointed Agents	Trucking Industry
Deputy Director, CVSE	Motor Carrier Dept.	Supt of Motor Vehicles
Regional CVSE Managers	Law Enforcement Agencies	
Managers, Licensing	Commercial Transport Insp.	
ADM (Compliance and Consumer Services)	(Weigh Scales)	

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

- To clarify the provisions under the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* prohibiting the tinting of windshields and front driver and passenger windows or the installation of after-market glass.
- To affirm that no authority exists to issue a permit or other permission to a vehicle owner or operator to install window tint or glass that does not meet the standards set out in the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*.

BACKGROUND

Numerous letters have been received from the public seeking permission to tint vehicle windshields and front driver and passenger windows for medical reasons.

Apparently, these individuals have been advised that they could obtain permission for this tinting from the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, or the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General by providing a physician's letter verifying the sun sensitivity problem. This is not the case.

In the past, on an exceptional basis, and with the recommendation of a medical specialist, permits have been issued to allow the application of a clear ultra-violet (UV) filter film on the inside of the windshield and the front side windows.

Due to the fact this film is transparent, no permit is required and the clear film is not prohibited by the Regulations. However, the presence of this film can change the safety characteristics and performance of the window glass. Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement does not recommend its use.

The onus is on the owner of the vehicle to be aware of possible changes to the performance of the safety glass with the addition of a clear UV film. Individuals with sun sensitivity are encouraged to seek out solutions that do not entail compromising their driving safety.

RELEVANT STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Section 7.05 (8) of the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* states:

"No person shall drive or operate on a highway a motor vehicle which has affixed to or placed on the windshield or a window any material that reduces the light transmitted through the windshield or window unless the material is affixed to or placed on

- (a) the windshield but not more than 75 mm below the top of the windshield,
- (b) a side window that is behind the driver, or
- (c) the rear window if the motor vehicle is equipped with outside rear view mirrors on the left and right side of the motor vehicle.”

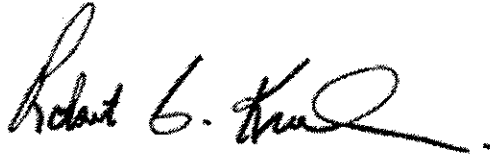
Section 7.05 (9) of the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* states that “if a motor vehicle contains manufactured glass, tinting contained within the glass must meet the minimum light transmittancy requirements under the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.”

All glass must be legibly and permanently marked with the words **American National Standard** or the characters **AS**.

Windshields must be marked as AS-1, AS-10, or AS-14.

Side glass on front driver and passenger side must be marked as AS-1, AS-2, AS-10, or AS-11.

Law enforcement personnel with any remaining questions in regard to window tinting may direct the questions to a Motor Vehicle Inspector in their region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Kroeker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert G. Kroeker
Director, Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General