



LEWISTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

WINDOW TINTING FACT SHEET

Purpose: To inform and educate the public on the laws pertaining to suncreening within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

-Effective September 28 1996, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation adopted new regulations pertaining to the use of sunscreening (window tinting).

Facts:

1. Window tinting is not a part of annual vehicle safety inspection criteria. If your vehicle passes an annual safety inspection, this does not indicate that your tinting is legal for the use upon the highways of Pennsylvania.
2. Laws pertaining to window tinting can vary from state to state. If your vehicle was previously registered in a state with laws differing from the laws in Pennsylvania, you must bring your vehicle into compliance with Pennsylvania law when you register the vehicle in Pennsylvania.
3. There is no exemption for colored suncreening for medical purposes. There are exemption certificates for medical proposes, however these exemptions only allow for colorless (clear) sunscreening.
4. Exemptions are available after application and approval by Penn-dot, for vehicle which were already equipped with colored sunscreening and were Pennsylvania registered prior to September 8, 1984.
5. Most vehicle windows have a small amount of tinting already in the glass. Factory glass typically has light transmittance levels between 70% and 85%. Federal law prohibits auto manufactures from making passenger cars with light transmittance levels lower than 70%. Some auto dealerships equip new cars with tinting prior to selling the new vehicle. This is not factory tinting, and is still required to meet these requirements.
6. The below table is designed to assist in determining the law as it pertains to different vehicles. The transmittance level means that of the 100% of the light hitting the outside of the window, at least 70% of that light must pass through the window to the inside of the vehicle. Effectively, the 70% light transmittance requirement means that you can not put any tinting on the window, as even the lightest tinting that you can buy will cause the transmittance level to be below 70%.

VEHICLE TYPE	WINDSHIELD	FRONT SIDE AND WING WINDOWS	REAR SIDE AND WING WINDOWS	REAR WINDOW
1998 AND NEWER PASSENGER CARS	70%	70%	70%	70%
1997 AND OLDER PASSANGER CARS	70%	70%	70%	VESC-20 REQUIRED (1)
TRUCKS AND MULTI-PURPOSE PASSENGER VEHICLES (2)	70%	70%	NO REQUIREMENT	NO REQUIREMENT
MEDIUM/HEAVY TRUCKS AND BUSES	70%	70%	NO REQUIREMENT	NO REQUIREMENT
ALL OTHER VEHICLES	70%	70%	NO REQUIREMENT	NO REQUIREMENT

(1) A LABEL PERMANENTLY INSTALLED BETWEEN THE SUN SCREENING MATERIAL AND THE WINDOW TO WHICH IT IS APPLIED. THE LABEL SHALL CONTAIN THE NAME OF THE MATERIAL MANUFACTURER, OR A REGISTRATION NUMBER, AND SHALL CONTAIN THE STATEMENT "COMPLIES WITH VESC-20". THE VESC-20 STANDARD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRANSMITTANCE LEVEL OF THE SUN-SCREENING. THE VESC-20 STICKER MUST BE AFFIXED IN ORDER FOR SUN SCREENING TO BE LEGAL ON THIS WINDOW

(2) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS FACT SHEET, MULTI-PURPOSE PASSANGER VEHICLES ARE DEFINED AS THOSE BUILT ON A TRUCK CHASSES OR THOSE WHICH ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR OCCASIONAL OFF-ROAD USE. MINI-VANS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY

PA Inspection Code 175.67(d)(4) A sun screening device or other material which does not permit a person to see or view the inside of the vehicle is prohibited, unless otherwise permitted by FMVSS No. 205, or a certificate of exemption has been issued in compliance with § 175.265 (relating to exemption provisions). See Table X for specific requirements for vehicles subject to this subchapter. Passenger car requirements relating to the rear window are delineated by vehicle model year in Table X.

PA Vehicle Code 4107(b)(2) Operate, or cause or permit another person to operate, or any highway in this Commonwealth any vehicle or combination which is not equipped as required under this part or under department regulations or when the driver is in violation of department regulations or the vehicle or combination is otherwise in an unsafe condition or in violation of department regulations.