

# Car Window Tinting Laws

When window tint is installed to the glazing of a vehicle it reduces the amount of visible light, how much depends on the darkness of the tint. Car window tint is graded in a % VLT (Visible Light Transmittance - the amount of light the film allows to pass through). Some companies grade the film as how much light the film blocks so 20% VLT could be that it allows 20% of light to pass through, however with another company it could allow 80% of light to pass through as the 20% is the amount of light it blocks, this confuses things and you should always check before installing film. In this article all percentages refer to the visible light transmittance (VLT).

Authorities in many countries and states have laws as to how dark you can tint your windows. This is because if the windows are tinted too dark you may not be able to see hazards clearly, especially at night, and also police may not be able to identify individuals inside a vehicle. In this article we have tried to compile a list of the laws in varying countries and states, you should use this as a guide only and should check with your local authority before installing window tints to your vehicle.

## Important

**Front windows = the front windows forward of the B-pillar not including the front windscreen (not including sunroofs)**

**Rear windows = all the windows behind the front seats (not including sun roofs)**

## Europe

### **Window Tint Laws in UK**

In the UK, regulations set by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 require that all front windows (in front of the B post) can have no less than 70% VLT. Windscreens are only allowed tinting outside the sweep of the windscreen wipers to a maximum of six inches from the top of the windscreen. British police are increasingly cracking down on illegally tinted vehicles and many now carry tint meters to check the VLT. There are no regulations on the level of tint you can have on the rear windows (all windows behind the B post) so you can put any tint on these windows including completely blacking them out

### **Window Tint Laws in Austria**

If the window is marked with a "V" symbol then you can only put a clear safety film on the rear windows, if there is no symbol then you have to allow 20% VLT for the rear windows. You can put clear safety films on the front windows with a light transmission of 85%, you can not put any film on the front windscreen.

## **Window Tint Laws in Belarus**

In Belarus any kind of window tint is illegal. An exception is made for factory tint in vehicles purchased before 1st April 2006. Vehicles of cash collectors, KGB and certain officials are exempt from this legislation.

## **Window Tint Laws in Belgium**

You have to allow at least 70% VLT on the front windows and this must be certified by the Glass Institute. This is not authorised for the front windows of M1 vehicles except for window film installed prior to 30th April 2003). There is no limit on the shade for all the rear windows, but if installed on the back windscreen you must have at least one rear view mirror in the side opposite the driver

## **Window Tint Laws in Czech Republic**

On the front side windows the window & film must equal at least 70% VLT, safety or combined films must be certified, same VLT regulations. You can not fit any film to the front windscreen. For the rear windows there is no limit provided the film is certified.

## **Window Tint Laws in Denmark**

For the front windscreen you must allow a minimum of 75% VLT, the front side windows must allow a minimum of 70% VLT. For the rear windows you must allow 40% VLT.

## **Window Tint Laws in Finland**

For the front windscreen you must allow a minimum of 75% VLT, the front side windows must allow a minimum of 70% VLT. For the back windscreen you must allow 70% VLT for M1, M1G-, N1- to N1G vehicles provided that there are front windows providing suitable visibility to the rear. If a rear brake light is installed, as a compulsory device, then tint must not cover this.

## **Window Tint Laws in France**

The only film you can apply to the front windshield is a maximum 10cm banner at the top of the window in a uniform colour for solar protection or small informative labels. The front side windows must be homologated in an appointed lab (applies UN-ECE R43). Providing the car is fitted with 2 side mirrors you may film the rear windows for solar protection, films must be homologated in an appointed lab (applies UN-ECE R43)

## **Window Tint Laws in Greece**

For front and rear windows the current law states that the transparent parts of a vehicle must ensure that the driver and passengers are visible at all times, because of this it seems that dark tints are prohibited.

## **Window Tint Laws in Hungary**

For the front windscreen you have to allow a minimum 75% VLT and for the front side windows a minimum of 70% VLT. For passenger cars the back side windows must allow 70% VLT, for non passenger cars the back side windows and rear windscreen have no limits of VLT. For the windscreen. Clear safety films and high UV films must be homologated by the Hungarian authorities with a 75% VLT.

### **Window Tint Laws in Italy**

You may not put any film on the front side windows or windscreen. Provided that the vehicle is equipped with rear view mirrors on each side there is no limit to the VLT for the rear windows. Italy will soon accept ABG certified films (with a translation)

### **Window Tint Laws in Malta**

The Malta Transport Authority Permits 70% VLT on the Front Side windows. You may install a band across the top of the windscreen with a depth of no more than 100mm of the depth of the windscreen. 30% VLT is required on the rear and side windows.

### **Window Tint Laws in Russia**

Window tinting limits are specified in GOST 5727-88. The limit is 75% VLT for the front windshield (a darker stripe no wider than 10cm (4") is allowed at the very top) and 70% for the front side windows. Tinting of the back windows is not regulated and so any level of tint can be used.

### **Window Tint Laws in Spain**

No film is allowed on the front windows neither driver nor passenger. In the rear window and rear driver & passenger side doors you can use any film with no limitation. Only films which have been tested for approval in Spain are allowed on cars, if the car is fitted with a film that hasn't been approved for sale in Spain then it must be removed upon a complete technical inspection.

### **North America**

#### **Window Tint Laws in United States**

In the United States, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an administration within the federal Department of Transportation (DOT), specifies a minimum of 70% VLT for window tinting on the windshield and the windows to the immediate left and right of the driver for commercial vehicles (the DOT does not regulate private vehicles).

The DOT does not specify any VLT requirements for rear windows. State law may regulate laws for private vehicles and may go further than the requirements those set forth by the DOT; private vehicles may have tint on the windows to the immediate left and right of the driver as dark as 20 percent VLT, depending on the state.

The state laws for US are as follows (shows minimum VLT):

Alabama	32%	Louisiana	40%	Ohio	50%
Alaska	70%	Maine	50%	Oklahoma	25%

Arizona	33%	Maryland	35%	Oregon	35%
Arkansas	25%	Massachusetts	35%	Pennsylvania	70%
California	70%	Michigan	70%	Rhode Island	70%
Colorado	27%	Minnesota	50%	South Carolina	27%
Connecticut	35%	Mississippi	28%	South Dakota	35%
Delaware	70%	Missouri	35%	Tennessee	35%
Florida	28%	Montana	35%	Texas	25%
Georgia	32%	Nebraska	35%	Utah	43%
Hawaii	35%	Nevada	28%	Vermont	70%
Idaho	35%	New Hampshire	70%	Virginia	43%
Illinois	70%	New Jersey	70%	Washington	35%
Indiana	30%	New Mexico	20%	West Virginia	35%
Iowa	70%	New York	70%	Wisconsin	50%
Kansas	35%	North Carolina	32%	Wyoming	28%
Kentucky	35%	North Dakota	70%		

### Window Tint Laws in Canada

PROVINCE	TYPE	WIND SHIELD	F. SIDE	B. SIDE (car)	B. SIDE (MPV)	REAR (car)	REAR (MPV)	L&R MIRR.	CERTIF.	STCKR/LOC	MEDICAL
ALBERTA	FILM	15 CM	NO	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
BRITISH COLUMBIA	FILM	7.5 CM	NO	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
MANITOBA	NET	15 CM	45	30	ANY	35	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
NEW BRUNSWICK	FILM	NO	NO	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
NEWFOUNDLAND	FILM	15 CM	VAGUE	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
NOVA SCOTIA	FILM	15 CM	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
ONTARIO	FILM	15 CM	VAGUE	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
PRINCE EDWARD	FILM	15 CM	NO	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
QUEBEC	NET	15 CM	70	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO
SASKATCHEWAN	FILM	15 CM	NO	ANY	ANY	ANY	ANY	YES	NO	NO	NO

### EXPLANATION OF THE STATE LAW SUMMARY CHART

#### KEY

**Type= Film** (LT % refers to the film itself).

**Net** (LT % refers to the combined LT of film & glass).

**Vague** (language is unclear, legislative intent is unclear, or interpretation is uncertain, any information following is subject to change or interpretation).

**Windshield** = Presumably, NR tinting is permitted above the AS-1 line. If the law specifies only the AS-1 line, AS-1 appears. If AS-1 or specified inches appears, the AS-1 is assumed and only the number at inches down appears.

(Note: NR is used in lieu of "No, Any, or a specific percentage" when the law permits unspecified "non-obstructive" or "Transparent" tinting materials. In these cases, the legality of tinting inevitably depends upon each officer's discretion).

**Front Sides** = No film, or the actual percentage of LT Permitted. (Note: Because they may vary from state to state, manufacturer's tolerances (i.e. + / - 3% LT) are not listed on this chart, nor are they included in these LT numbers).

**MPV** = Multi-Purpose Vehicle. A vehicle used for passengers on a truck chassis.

**Back Sides** = No film, or the actual percentage of LT permitted.

**Rear** = No film, or the actual percentage of LT permitted.

**Mirrors** (Left & Right required outside) = **Yes** or **No**.

(Note: Usually, a **Yes** means that dual outside mirrors are required if the back window is to be tinted).

**Certification Required:** **Yes** or **No**.

(Note: This refers to a requirement for manufacturers to certify the films they plan to sell before shipping them into the state).

**Stckr/Loc-** (Sticker/Location).

**No** (no sticker is required).

**Rec** (sticker recommended).

**Specific** (the state requires unique language & design, which may entail precise wording and sizing).

**(1) Driver** (the sticker is required between the film and glass on the driver's side window).

**(2) Door** (the sticker is required on the inside of the driver's side doorjamb).

**(3) All** (the sticker should be put between the film and glass on each tinted window).

**Recommended** (due to "officer discretion," a sticker can help officers identify legal tint more easily).

**Locations:** **Driver's** window, **All** windows tinted with film; or Driver's left door jamb

**Medical Exemption:** **Yes** or **No**.

(**Note:** For more details about the specific terms of the exemption consult the law).

**Important:**

This summary chart of state aftermarket tint law information is not a legal document. It is the result of independent research, using several sources, of public state documents. Window tinting laws vary from state to state and province to province. **Before applying any window tinting materials, installers should thoroughly review the appropriate state regulations as well as local enforcement policies to insure compliance with all applicable standards.**

## Oceania

### **Window Tint Laws in Australia**

The Roads & Traffic Authority permits 35% VLT on all windows. A band across the top of the windscreen is permitted with a depth of no more than 10% of the depth of the windscreen. An exception to the side & rear window tinting regulations applies to cars tinted before 1st August 1994.