

Latest Change in Vehicle Glass Requirements

In Hong Kong, the requirements for safety glass in motor vehicles are stated in regulation 28 (reg.28) of Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations, Cap. 374A. The acceptable standards of safety glass are specified under reg.28(1)(a) and includes the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regulation 43. At the same time, reg.28(1)(b) of Cap. 374A stipulates that all vehicle glass shall be of such transparency that it does not obscure the view of the interior of the motor vehicle.

The Transport Department conducted review on the light transmission rate (LTR) in 2008, 2009 and 2012, and the latest minimum LTR requirements are summarized below:

- (i) For all window glasses (including the front windscreen), unless otherwise specified, 70%¹;
- (ii) For private cars, goods vehicles, special purpose vehicles and buses fitted with external reflecting mirrors on both sides, the side window glass behind the driver's compartment, 44%;
- (iii) All window glasses on upper deck of buses, 44%.

Sticking of any reflective material or film to vehicle glass contravenes reg. 28(2) of Cap 374A. If a vehicle owner wishes to add non-reflective solar film onto window glass for specific reasons, must apply to TD for exemption by filling in and returning the attached application form in person or by post. The approval requirements include:

- (i) The light transmission rates of the window glass must still meet the above requirements, with no distortion;
- (ii) The Schedule 2 of Road Traffic (Toll Tags) Regulation, Cap. 374Z has specified in which way and location the Toll Tags must be affixed to the motor vehicle. The vehicle owner should fully comply with such requirements when adding the non-reflective solar film onto window glass;
- (iii) The non-reflective solar film added onto window glass must not interfere with the performance of any Toll Tags² regulated under Road Traffic (Toll Tags) Regulation, Cap. 374Z and the effective operation of any vehicle sensors.

Further enquiries may be made to the Senior Motor Vehicle Examiner at Tel 3961 0362 ◦

Transport Department

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¹ Reduced from 75% with effect from April 2012

² Toll Tag has the meaning given by section 6A(5) of Cap. 374 Road Traffic Ordinance i.e. means a device issued for the use in connection with a vehicle for enabling the detection of the use by the vehicle of any specified Government infrastructure in so far as it is operated without toll booths.

