

Tinted Windows Questions and Answers

DVA Enforcement Section

**148-158 Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3DH**

www.dvani.gov.uk/compliance

**Telephone 028 9025 4100
Fax 028 9025 4111
E mail - dvtaenforcements@doeni.gov.uk**



EXCESSIVELY TINTED GLASS AND THE LAW

What does the law say?

The law specifies how much light must pass through the vehicle glass.

What is the purpose of the law?

The purpose of the law is to ensure the vehicle glass is not tinted beyond the point where the driver's ability to see the road around the vehicle is restricted.

What glass will DVTA Enforcement officers check?

The windscreen and the front side windows to either side of the driver's head.

In what units is the level of tint measured?

The tint is measured as the percentage of light passing through the glass.

What are the legal limits of tinted glass\film?

For vehicles **first used on or after 1 June 1978 but before 1 April 1985**, the glass in the windscreen and front side windows must allow 70% of light to be transmitted through.

For vehicles **first used on or after 1 April 1985**, the glass in the windscreen must allow light 75% of light to be transmitted through and the glass in the

front side windows must allow 70% of light to be transmitted through.

EXCESSIVELY TINTED GLASS AND THE IMPACT ON ROAD SAFETY

Whilst permanently tinted glass may improve the ability of drivers in bright conditions, it will restrict their view in dark conditions which may prevent drivers from seeing other motorists or pedestrians. When vehicles are emerging from junctions, approaching drivers will look for confirmation that the driver of the emerging vehicle has observed their approach and excessively tinted glass can prevent this eye contact being established.

How do DVTA Enforcement officers measure glass for compliance?

If an officer encounters a vehicle with excessively tinted glass and has no equipment with him to measure the visual light transmission (VLT) for the glass, then action will be taken only in the worst instances of non compliance. Action will be taken if it is obvious to the officer that the driver's vision is severely restricted by the level of tint. When officers have equipment available they will use a calibrated opacity meter to measure the VLT. Enforcement action will be taken only when the glass has VLT

significantly below the required level and you will be notified what the measured values were.

Are there any other implications for motorists who tint the glass of windscreens and/or front/side windows?

Yes, any modifications to a vehicle that alter the standards to which it was manufactured may render your motor insurance invalid - if the modification also makes it illegal for use because it breaches the legal requirements then this becomes more likely. Depending on the degree of tint or non compliance the vehicle may be prohibited or the user prosecuted for which there is a maximum fine of £1000.

