

6.5 Tinted windows

The Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 as amended specifies the minimum levels of light that must pass through the windscreen and front side windows. For vehicles first used on or after 1 April 1985, the light transmitted through the windscreen must be 75% and 70% through the front side windows.

The licensing authority recognises that many manufacturers fit tinted windows as standard original fittings, as either 'dark tint' or 'light tint'.

There is a distinct difference between standard tinted windows which meet the legal requirements and the 'dark tint' - commonly known as 'privacy glass', which is much darker and lets a minimum of light through, making it very difficult to see into the vehicle.

To address public safety concerns around the use of 'privacy' glass and to allow as wide a range of vehicles as possible to be used by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trades, the following conditions regarding tinting apply to licensed vehicle windows:-

- (a) All rear windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.
- (b) No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the windows, on any part of the vehicle.
- (c) Front side windows and the front windscreen must meet the requirements of the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, as detailed above.
- (e) Privacy glass shall only be acceptable: -
 - i) where fitted to plate exempt vehicles, as applied for in accordance with section 6.8 of this policy.
 - ii) where good reason is given for its use (for example, in the case of disabled-access school-run vehicles, where contracted clients may be liable to light-triggered seizures). What is considered "good reason" will be at the discretion of LEOs in conjunction with the PLO.
- (f) Any glass which has been replaced must be safety glass and must comply with The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.

Grandfather rights for vehicles licensed before September 2019

In order to avoid unnecessary expense being caused to the trade through this policy, any vehicles licensed before September 2019 which currently have factory fitted privacy glass will be allowed to continue to be licensed on a yearly basis until such time as the vehicle is replaced or changes ownership (by change of ownership this includes the regular use of the vehicle by another driver).

Conversely however, for the avoidance of confusion - licensees will not be permitted to install tinted glass in these vehicles.

It is assumed that this grace period will allow time for drivers to make other arrangements to accommodate existing customers who prefer or require use of vehicles with privacy glass.