

INDUSTRY ALERT

APRIL 2016

VLT crackdown in Melbourne

'Operation Halo' is the code name given to the police campaign to crackdown on illegal auto film throughout inner Melbourne in April this year.

The device facilitating the crackdown is a new electronic light meter from Vipac called Autolight. The meters allow officers to test the VLT of car windows to quickly check if the film is within legal limits.



With +/- 3% accuracy, the device has a new configuration and shape (as seen in the image above), which allows easy alignment to the glass.

David Jenkins, Director of AutoTest (Vipac's automotive company), says, "What sets Autolight apart is its quick and accurate testing capability that conforms with internationally recognised methods. It is simply a great way of addressing a commonly misunderstood problem."

According to Vipac, the likely catalyst for the recent police initiative was the frequency of cars being either fined or defected at registration for illegal film as low as 3% VLT.

On Sunday, 3rd April Channel 9 News in Victoria featured a story regarding the police campaign, which involved testing vehicles with the new Autolight devices. Alerting the public to the need for caution when having window film fitted and the importance of adhering to the State or Territory regulations governing after market window film.

This initiative is particular to inner Melbourne only, but Vipac informs WFAANZ that Autolight devices have been sold to law enforcement agencies throughout Australia, South East Asia and Europe.

This situation highlights the importance of auto film installers' compliance with all State or Territory VLT laws. It should be noted that when applying film to privacy glass, the combined VLT of both glass and film must remain within the legal limit.

While a vehicle owner may want dark film, they will not appreciate being pulled over and fined by Police and forced to pay for the removal of the film.

WFAANZ recommends keeping a copy of your State or Territory regulations on hand to refer to when talking to clients. For this and more information please refer to the WFAANZ website www.wfaanz.org.au.

