

Keeping it legal in NZ



What you need to know

In New Zealand there is a limit to how dark you can tint the windows in your car. The regulations are laid out in the Land Transport Rule, *Glazing, Windscreen Wipe and Wash, and Mirrors* 1999, Rule 32012/1. All regions on both islands have the same VLT regulations for the aftermarket application of automotive window film.

VLT stands for Visible Light Transmission, basically, how much light gets through the glass. VLT levels are expressed as a percentage - the lower the percentage, the darker the glass. Clear glass has a VLT of approximately 85%.

Many factors should be considered when picking the right film for your vehicle - the existing VLT of the privacy glass (factory tint), vehicle classification, film reflection, UV protection, safety and aesthetics to name a few. For professional advice on the 'darkest legal' film to suit your specific requirements, consult a WFAANZ member who abides by the regulations and maintains high industry standards.

A list of all New Zealand WFAANZ members can be found at wfaanz.org.au/directory.

Windscreen. Modification to a windscreen must not "...unreasonably impair the driver's vision". For this reason, WFAANZ advises against the application of any window film on the greater part of the windscreen, even optically clear film.

An anti-glare band can be applied to the top of the windscreen if it doesn't go lower than the bottom edge of the original equipment sun visors when they're lowered as far as possible towards the windscreen. The band can only contain a print in the area within 100mm from the top edge of the windscreen (not below).

Side and rear windows.

A 35% VLT limit applies to the aftermarket application of window film to the side, rear and back windows of a passenger car (Class MA). A station wagon has the same classification as a car.

Other vehicles. Stretch limousines and hearses have the same restrictions on the windscreen and front side windows, but can have any VLT film applied to the rear, side rear and back windows. Any vehicle with a film applied to a window that is further back than the driver's seat must have external rear view mirrors on each side.

Privacy glass. As most new vehicles have privacy glass (tint in the glass itself), it's vital your tinter knows the darkness of the glazing **before** film is applied, as the combination of glass **plus** tint must be within the VLT limit. Windows with privacy glass already darker than 35% are marked as AS3 glass - and no film can be applied to these windows, even if it's clear.

Reflection. Mirror film or partial mirror film is not allowed in any vehicle.

Checking VLT. VLT can be checked using a calibrated VLT meter or 35% VLT cards, available from WFAANZ.

RISKS OF IGNORING THE REGULATIONS

- Fine.** During police crack-downs on illegal auto tint, patrol officers are equipped with electronic light meters or VLT cards to perform spot checks. If found in breach, you will be issued a fine
- Insurance.** Modifying your vehicle in a way that makes it 'unsafe' could void your insurance coverage, leaving you exposed
- Unroadworthy.** Vehicles with aftermarket tint outside the legal limit are more likely to fail inspections and have registration denied
- Legality.** If you're in an accident and your tint is found to be a contributing factor, you could be open to litigation
- Safety.** Windows that are too dark could compromise your awareness of the road and surroundings, especially in low light conditions



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