

# State Window Light Transmittance and Reflectivity Laws and Rules

## State Equipment and Road Use Law Summaries

This survey focuses solely on factory-installed sun screening/reflectivity materials applied to side and rear windows. It does not include information on application to front windshields. Nor does it address any requirements for the after-market installation of sun screening/reflectivity materials.

State and Cite	Minimum Percent of Visible Light Transmission <sup>1/</sup>			Maximum Percent of Reflectivity <sup>2/</sup>			Other Provisions/Comments
	Front Side Windows	Back Side Windows*	Rear Windows	Front Side Windows	Back Side Windows	Rear Windows	
Alabama Ala.Code 1975 § 32-5C-3, 32-5C-5 ADC 760-X-1-.17 AL	32			20	20	20	Exempts vehicles whose windows have been tinted or darkened before factory delivery or permitted by federal law or regulation. Approval of materials used for window tinting has to be affixed or applied to the windows or windshields of a motor vehicle.
Alaska 13 AK ADC 04.223							Mirrored tinting prohibited. Rule addresses aftermarket tinting.
Arizona A.R.S. § 28-959.01	33 ± 3%		<sup>3/</sup>	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	
Arkansas A.C.A. § 27-37-306							Statute addresses after-market tinting only.
California West's Ann.Cal.Vehicle Code § 26708, §26708.2, § 26708.5 13 CA ADC § 780 *	Can't obstruct or reduce driver's clear view	Exempt	<sup>3/</sup>				Tinted safety glass may be installed if glass complies with FMVSS 205 and glass is installed in location permitted by those standards for the particular type of glass used. *Conforms CA rules on motor vehicle lamps and reflective devices to the federal requirements under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108 (FMVSS 108); applies to all types of RVs, including towed vehicles.

ADC = administrative code

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± = plus or minus.

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Colorado C.R.S.A. § 42-4-226 C.R.S.A. § 42-4-229							Side exterior mirrors required if motor vehicle does not have rear windows or rear side windows or has rear windows and rear side windows composed of, covered by, or treated with material or component which, when viewed from position of driver, obstructs rear view or makes such windows nontransparent.
Connecticut C.G.S.A. § 14-99g	35 ± 3%	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>	27 ± 3%			Cannot be mirror-like in appearance.
Delaware 21 4313 Rule 85 800 067	<sup>4/</sup>		<sup>3/</sup>				Law applies to all motor vehicles operated on Delaware roads, regardless of where registered.
Florida West's F.S.A. § 316.2953 § 316.2954 § 316.2957							Glazing provisions do not apply when manufacturer's tinting or glazing is in compliance with or permitted by FMVSS 205.  Louvered materials: permitted if materials do not reduce driver's visibility by more than 50%.
Georgia Ga. Code Ann., § 40-8-73.1	32 ± 3%			20			Excludes rear window or the side or door windows behind driver of an MPV.

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Hawaii HRS § 291-21.5	35 ± 6%	35 ± 6%	35 ± 6%				Glazing material must meet requirements of FMVSS in effect at time of manufacture. Permits privacy drapes, curtains, blinds, or any combination, installed on interior of motorhomes.
Idaho I.C. § 49-944	35 ± 3%	20 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	
Illinois 625 ILCS 5/12-503	No tinting	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>	None	None	None	Must use nonreflective materials.
Indiana IC 9-19-19-4	30		30	25 <sup>5/</sup>		25 <sup>5/</sup>	Glazing provisions do not apply to manufacturer's tinting or glazing of motor vehicle windows if in compliance with FMVSS 205. Proof from manufacturer, supplier or installer that tinting or glazing is in compliance or permitted by FMVSS must be carried in vehicle.
Iowa I.C.A. § 321.438	<sup>6/</sup>			<sup>6/</sup>			Windows cannot be excessively dark or reflective. State agency has authority to establish minimum standard of transparency.
Kansas K.S.A. 8-1749a	35	35	35	None	None	None	Prohibits one-way glass. Must use nonreflective materials. Statutes reference rules but no rules found.

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Kentucky KRS § 189.110	35 <sup>7/, 8/</sup>	8 <sup>7/, 8/</sup>	7/, 8/	25 <sup>7/, 8/</sup>	35 <sup>7/, 8/</sup>		Permits use of windows composed of, covered by, or treated with any material or component in a manner federally approved if window was a component at time of vehicle's manufacture.
Louisiana LSA-R.S. 32:361.1	40			20			Light transmittance requirements do not apply to windows behind drivers on motorhomes.
Maine 29-A M.R.S.A. § 1916	35			None	None	None	Exempts windows behind drivers on motorhomes.
Massachusetts M.G.L.A. 90 § 9D							Glazing provisions do not apply to motor vehicles manufactured with window glazing or tinting in compliance with FMVSS 205. Permits use of draperies, louvers, or other special window treatments on rear or back side windows if vehicle is equipped with two outside mirrors. Excludes vehicles registered out of state.
Maryland MD Code, Transportation, § 22-406							Statute addresses after-market tinting only.
Michigan M.C.L.A. 257.709	10/	11/	11/		35 <sup>9/</sup>	35 <sup>9/</sup>	No reflectivity standard for front side windows. Excludes vehicles registered out of state.

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Minnesota M.S.A. § 169.71							Glazing provisions do not apply to glazing materials that have not been modified since original installation or to motor vehicles manufactured with window glazing or tinting in compliance with FMVSS 205. Prohibits highly reflective or mirrored treatment.
Mississippi Miss. Code Ann. § 63-7-59							Glazing provisions do not apply to motor vehicles manufactured with window glazing or tinting in compliance with FMVSS 205. Statute addresses after-market tinting only.
Missouri V.A.M.S. 307.173							Permits application of tinted or solar screening materials to recreation vehicles.
Montana MCA 61-9-405							Windows of a camper, motorhome, pickup cover, slide-in camper must meet FMVSS 205.
Nebraska Neb.Rev.St. § 60-6,257							Windows of a camper, motorhome, pickup cover, slide-in camper must meet FMVSS 205.
Nevada N.R.S. 484.6195							Glazing provisions do not apply to motor vehicles manufactured with window glazing or tinting in compliance with FMVSS 205.

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New Hampshire N.H. Rev. Stat. § 266:58-a							Statute addresses after-market tinting.
New Jersey N.J.S.A. 39:3-75.2 NJ ADC 13:20-1.2 NJ ADC 13:20-1.3	60			8			
New Mexico N. M. S. A. 1978, § 66-3-846.1	20	20	20	none	none	none	
New York McKinney's Vehicle and Traffic Law § 375	70		70 <sup>3/</sup>				
North Carolina N.C.G.S.A. § 20-127				none	none	none	Light transmittance requirements do not apply to front, side or rear windows of a motorhome.

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North Dakota NDCC, 39-21-39	50	50 <sup>3/</sup>	50 <sup>3/</sup>				
Ohio R.C. § 4513.241				none	none	none	Glazing provisions do not apply to motor vehicles manufactured with window glazing or tinting in compliance with FMVSS 205.State has requirements regarding placement of decals on side windows.
Oklahoma 47 Okl.St.Ann.§ 12-422	25	25	25	25	25	25	Oklahoma dealers must provide a statement with sales contract certifying that tinting complies with this section of law. Louvered materials, when installed as designed, shall not reduce area of driver's visibility below 50% as measured on a horizontal plane. When such materials are used in conjunction with rear window, measurement shall be based upon driver's view from inside the rearview mirror. Excludes vehicles registered out-of-state.

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Oregon O.R.S. § 815.221	50 <sup>12/</sup>	50 <sup>12/</sup>	50 <sup>12/</sup>	13	13	13	Lower light transmittance may be applied to windows located behind driver of a multipurpose passenger vehicle (MPV). These tinted windows shall meet requirements for AS-3 glazing and MPV must be equipped with two rearview mirrors. Mirrored finish, red, gold, yellow, amber or black materials are not permitted.
Pennsylvania 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 4524							Sun screening devices or other material must permit a person to see or view inside of vehicle through windshield, side wing or side window of vehicle.
Rhode Island Gen.Laws 1956, § 31-23.3-4 RI ADC 46 100 032	70 <sup>17/</sup>	Permitted on motorhome or MPV <sup>15/</sup>	Permitted on motorhome or MPV <sup>15/</sup>				All window glass areas must be equipped in accordance with FMVSS 205.  Excludes vehicles registered out-of-state.
South Carolina Code 1976 § 56-5-5015							Light transmittance requirements do not apply to windows behind driver of RVs Statute addresses after-market sunscreening applications only

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South Dakota SDCL § 32-15-2.4 SDCL § 32-15-2.5	35 <sup>13/</sup>	20 <sup>13/</sup>	20 <sup>13/</sup>				
Tennessee T. C. A. § 55-9-107	35	35	35				Permits windows to be tinted darker than state statutes limitations if such tinting is permitted by FMVSS.
Texas V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 547.613 § 547.609*							Tinting provisions do not apply to side windows of MPVs or windows that comply with FMVSS at time of manufacture. Excludes vehicles registered out of state. * Requires a sunscreening device to have a legible label that contains information on light transmission and luminous reflectance of the device.
Utah U.C.A. 1953 § 41-6a-1635	43	Nontrans-parent materials permitted <sup>15/</sup>	Nontrans-parent materials permitted <sup>15/</sup>				Prohibits metallic or mirrored substances.  Windows must meet requirements of FMVSS.
Vermont	<b>No Provisions</b>						
Virginia Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-1052	50 <sup>15/</sup>	35 <sup>15/</sup>	35 <sup>15/</sup>	20 <sup>14/</sup>	20 <sup>14/</sup>	20 <sup>14/</sup>	

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Washington West's RCWA 46.37.430	35 ± 3% <sup>15/</sup> <sub>16/</sub>	Permitted <sup>15/</sup> at > 35	Permitted <sup>15/</sup> at > 35	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	35 ± 3%	Prohibits installation of more than a single sheet of film sunscreening material. Also prohibits mirror finishes; red, gold, yellow or black material, and film suncreening that is in liquid pre-application form and brushed or sprayed on.
Wisconsin W.S.A. 346.88	Non-transparent materials prohibited	Non-transparent materials prohibited	Non-transparent materials prohibited				
West Virginia W. Va. Code, § 17C-15-36a	35			20	20	20	Light transmittance requirements do not apply to windows behind drivers of motorhomes.
Wyoming W.S.1977 § 31-5-962	28			20			Requirements do not apply to windows behind driver on motorhomes.
District of Columbia DC ST § 50-2207.02							Glazing provisions do not apply to vehicles with tinted windows installed by its manufacturer prior to purchase. Glazing provisions shall not be construed to modify or affect any federal law concerning window tinting of motor vehicle that is applicable to manufacturers of new vehicles.

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### Footnotes:

- <sup>1/</sup> Transmittance means the ratio of amount of total light, expressed in a percentage, which is allowed to pass through product or material, including glazing to amount of total light falling on product or material and the glazing.
- <sup>2/</sup> Reflectance means the ratio of amount of total light, expressed in a percentage, which is reflected outward by product or material to amount of total light falling on product or material.
- <sup>3/</sup> Requirements do not apply if motor vehicle is equipped with outside mirrors that are on both left-hand and right-hand sides of vehicle and that are located in a manner to reflect to driver a view of highway through each mirror for a distance of at least 200 feet to rear of motor vehicle.
- <sup>4/</sup> Must meet requirements of FMVSS 205 in effect at time of its manufacture.
- <sup>5/</sup> As measured on the nonfilm side.
- <sup>6/</sup> Occupants of vehicle must be easily identified or recognized through window from outside vehicle.
- <sup>7/</sup> When tested on one-eighth inch clear glass, as measured on the nonfilm side.
- <sup>8/</sup> Perforated sunscreening material which, when tested in conjunction with existing glazing or film material, has a total reflectance of visible light of not more than 35% and a light transmittance of no less than 30%. For those products or materials having different levels of reflectance, the highest reflectance from product or material will be measured by dividing area into 16 equal sections and averaging overall reflectance. The measured reflectance of any of those sections may not exceed 50%.

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<sup>9/</sup> In visible light range, including a silver or gold reflective film.

<sup>10/</sup> Any darkness can be applied but material cannot extend more than 4 inches from top of window or lower than shade band, whichever is closer to top of window.

<sup>11/</sup> Nonreflective, smoked or tinted glass, nonreflective film, perforated window screen, or other decorative window application is permitted on rear window or back side windows. Use of draperies, louvers, or other special window treatments require use of two outside mirrors.

<sup>12/</sup> Total light transmittance through window with tinting material applied is 35% or more.

<sup>13/</sup> With an enforcement tolerance of 9%.

<sup>14/</sup> Cannot produce a holographic or prism effect.

<sup>15/</sup> Vehicle must be equipped with two outside mirrors.

<sup>16/</sup> When measured against clear glass resulting in a minimum of 24% light transmission on AS-2 glazing where vehicle is equipped with outside rearview mirrors on both the right and left.

<sup>17/</sup> Measured perpendicular to surface of glass on side windows immediately adjacent to right and left of operator's seat.

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