

## **Latest Change in Vehicle Glass Requirements of Transport Department**

**(April 2008)**

The Transport Department (TD) has recently reviewed the requirements of vehicle window glass in line with the latest development of the international standard and overseas practice. The latest change is that the light transmission rate (LTR) of window glass behind the driver seat (B-pillars) will be relaxed from the existing minimum 70% to minimum 44%. It involves the side window glass of passengers seat behind the driver seat and the rear windscreen (the rear glass), provided that the vehicle is fitted with 2 external rearview mirrors. The LTR of front windscreen and side glass on both sides of the driver will remain unchanged at 75% and 70% respectively.

The change, to be effective from May 1, 2008, will apply to all private cars and public buses (franchised and non-franchised) and private buses (not applicable to the light buses). Vehicle importers, dealers and major vehicle service companies have been informed of the change.

In Hong Kong, the specifications for safety glass in motor vehicles are governed by reg. 28 of Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (C&M). The acceptable standards are spelt out in **reg. 28(1)(a)** which includes the Economic Commission for Europe Regulation 43 (ECE43). The ECE43 was revised in 2003 to the effect that, **for motor vehicles fitted with external rear-view mirrors on both sides**, the LTR of the rear glass may be less than 70%. It should be noted that meeting the requirements of ECE R43 does not automatically meet the requirement of r28(1)(b).

**Reg. 28(1)(b)** of C&M stipulates that ALL vehicle glass shall be of such transparency that it **does not obscure the view of the interior** of the motor vehicle. Upon recent review in consultation with other concerned department, TD has decided to set the lowest acceptable standard for LTR of **glass behind the driver seat** (the rear glass) to be 44%.

Further enquiries can be addressed to Senior Motor Vehicle Examiner, tel.: 2829 5468.