

Latest Change in Vehicle Glass Requirements of Transport Department
(December 2009)

In Hong Kong, the specifications for safety glass in motor vehicles are governed by Regulation 28 (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 reg.28(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. The Transport Department conducted review on the light transmission rate for all vehicle types in 2008 and 2009. The resultant change as follow :

- a) **With effect from 1 May 2008**, the light transmission rate (LTR) of window glass behind the driver seat (B-pillars) of all **private cars and buses** was relaxed to a minimum of 44%.

- b) **With effect from 1 May 2009**, the light transmission rate for the side window glass of passenger seats behind the driver seat and the rear windscreen (the rear glass) of **goods vehicles and special purpose vehicles** could also be relaxed to a minimum of 44%, 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 remained unchanged at 75% and 70% respectively. Vehicle importers, dealers and major vehicle maintenance and servicing companies are required to take note of the above.

Sticking of reflective material or film to vehicle glass that affect light transmission contravenes Reg. 28(2) of C&M. If a vehicle owner wishes to add non-reflective solar films on window glass for some good reasons, he/her must apply to TD for exemption by filling and returning the attached application form. The approval prerequisite is that the light transmission rates of the window glass must still meet the above requirements.

Further enquiries may be addressed to Senior Motor Vehicle Examiner, tel.: 2753 9130.

Transport Department
December 2009

**Application for Exemption from
Regulation 28(2) of Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations**

I, _____, am the owner of the vehicle with registration no.: _____ . For the following reason, I would like to apply¹ for exemption of the vehicle from the Regulation 28(2) of Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations for sticking of non-reflective film on window glass. Details are as follows:

Reason for application : _____

<u>Measured Light Transmission</u> <u>Rates (%)</u>	<u>Before sticking</u> <u>non-reflective film</u>	<u>After sticking</u> <u>non-reflective film</u>
Front windscreen		
N/S 1 st row window (passenger side)		
O/S 1 st row window (driver side)		
N/S 2 nd row window		
O/S 2 nd row window		
N/S 3 rd row window		
O/S 3 rd row window		
Rear windscreen		

I declare that the information provided above is true.

Signature of applicant: _____ Mail address: _____

(In case of a company, please also stamp company's chop)

Date: _____ Tel. No: _____

¹ This application form should be completed by the vehicle owner and sent to the below address together with a copy of vehicle registration document (if this form is completed by an authorized agent, the authorizing letter must also be enclosed):

Type Approval Section
Transport Department
Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre,
2 Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon