



Legislative Regulation and Guidelines over the Installation of Visual Display Unit (TV Screen) in a Vehicle

1. Installation of TV screens in vehicles is regulated under the existing legislation. The installation of a TV screen in a vehicle shall be in compliance with the requirements as stipulated under section 37 “visual display units” and section 5 “construction and maintenance” of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations. Please refer to the appendix for details. In practice, the following major points should be considered:
 - (a) The construction of the TV screen shall only enable the display of: information about navigating the vehicle; the current closed-circuit view of the area surrounding the vehicle; and information about the current state of the vehicle or its equipment. Except for the above, any other information (for instance, television broadcasting programmes and stored information such as DVD, etc.) displayable on the TV screen shall not be visible to anyone on the driver’s position.
 - (b) The installation of the TV screen shall not cause danger to the passengers and the driver of the vehicle, or lower the safety standard designed for its passengers and the driver by the original vehicle manufacturer (for instance, there shall be no hard surfaces, sharp edges, etc.) which may result in more serious injuries to the passengers in the vehicle in the event of an accident.
 - (c) The TV screen and its installation shall not affect the operation of other systems of the vehicle.
 - (d) If the TV screen is used for displaying the above restricted information such as television programmes, DVD, etc., such screen shall not be installed in a position visible to the driver of the vehicle directly or through reflection. Furthermore, we suggest that it should be installed at a relatively hidden position (such as the lower position of the back of a seat), so that it would not be easily visible to other road users and distract their attention from road safety.
2. Under regulation 121 of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations, any person who installs or uses any illegal video screen is liable to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months.
3. Therefore, to protect the vehicle owner and the driver from violating the law, and to protect the safety of the passengers and other road users, we suggest that members of the public should pay attention to the above legal requirements before installing any TV screen to their vehicles.
4. The installation of a video display unit (TV screen) that complies with the above legal requirements does not require this department prior approval.
5. For enquiry, please contact our Senior Motor Vehicle Examiner at 2753 9130.

The relevant regulations are :

1. Under regulation 37 of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations,

(1) No person shall install or cause to be installed in or on a motor vehicle and no motor vehicle shall have installed therein or thereon a visual display unit other than a visual display unit that may be installed under paragraph (2)- (L.N. 1 of 2000)

- (a) at any point forward of the driver's seat;
- (b) so that the screen thereof is partly or wholly, and whether directly or in any reflection, visible to the driver whilst in the driving seat; or
- (c) so that the controls thereof, other than the sound volume control and the main switch, are within reach of the driver whilst in the driving seat.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a visual display unit that is designed to give the driver-

- (a) information about the current state of the vehicle or its equipment;
- (b) the current closed-circuit view of any part of the vehicle or the area surrounding the vehicle;
- (c) information about the current location of the vehicle; or
- (d) any other information which is only for the purpose of navigating the vehicle,

may be installed in or on a motor vehicle. (L.N. 1 of 2000)

(3) A visual display unit which enables the display of-

- (a) any television programme within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap 562); or (48 of 2000 s. 44)
- (b) any stored visual images except for the purposes of paragraph (2)(d), may not be installed under paragraph (2) at a point forward of the driver's seat as referred to in paragraph (1)(a) or in the manner referred to in paragraph (1)(b) or (c). (L.N. 1 of 2000)

2. Under regulation 5(1) of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations,

(1) Every vehicle including all body work and fittings shall be-

- (a) soundly and properly constructed of suitable materials;
- (b) in good and serviceable condition; and
- (c) of such design and method of construction as to be capable of withstanding the loads and stresses likely to be encountered in operation.