

## **Window Tinting Fact Sheet**

**The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform and educate the general public on the laws pertaining to sunscreening with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Effective September 28, 1996, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation adopted new regulations pertaining to the use of Sun Screening (Window Tinting) operation of a vehicle with illegal Sun Screening is a summary traffic offense in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

### **Facts:**

- Window tinting is not part of annual vehicle safety inspection criteria. If your vehicle passes as annual safety inspection, this does not indicate that your tinting is legal for use upon the highways of Pennsylvania.
- Laws pertaining to window tinting can vary from state to state. If your vehicle was previously registered in a state with laws different from laws in Pennsylvania, you must bring your vehicle into compliance with Pennsylvania law when you register the vehicle in Pennsylvania.
- There is no exemption for colored sun screening for medical purposes. There are exemption certificates for medical purposes, however these exemptions only allow for colorless (clear) sun screening.
- Exemptions are available after application and approval by Penn-Dot, for vehicles which were already equipped with colored sun screening and were Pennsylvania registered prior to September 8, 1984.
- Most vehicle windows have a small amount of tinting already in the glass. Factory glass typically had light transmittance levels between 70% and 80%. Federal law prohibits auto manufacturers from making passenger cars with light transmittance levels lower than 70%. Some auto dealerships equip new cars with tinting prior to selling the new vehicle. This is not factory tinting and is still required to meet these requirements.
- The below table is designed to assist in determining the law as it pertains to different vehicles. The transmittance level means that of the 100% of the light hitting the outside of the window, at least 70% of that light must pass through the window to the inside of the vehicle. Effectively, the 70% light

transmittance requirement means that you can not put any tinting on the window, as even the lightest tinting that you can buy will cause the transmittance level to be below 70%.

<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>Windshield</b>	<b>Front Side Windows &amp; Wings</b>	<b>Rear Side Windows &amp; Wings</b>	<b>Rear Window</b>
Pre-1988 Passenger Cars	70%	70%	70%	VESC-20 <sub>1</sub>
1988 & Newer Passenger Cars	70%	70%	70%	70%
Trucks & Multi-Purpose Passenger Vehicles	70%	70%	No Requirement	No Requirement
Medium/Heavy Trucks & Buses	70%	70%	No Requirement	No Requirement
All Other Vehicles	70%	70%	No Requirement	No Requirement

We have seen an increase of vehicles with illegal levels of sun screening (tinting) recently. This can create a safety hazard for the driver as well as other drivers including motorcycles who try to use eye contact with drivers to help ensure they

are being seen on the roadway. If you have any questions about your window tinting, please contact our office by email at [millcreekpd@comcast.net](mailto:millcreekpd@comcast.net) or by phone at 610-589-4066.