Aftermarket Window Tint Guidelines

Aftermarket window tinting can dramatically reduce the amount of visible light transmitted through the glass to the operator. This becomes a major safety concern for night driving by impairing the operator’s vision.

If you have aftermarket tinted windows on your vehicle, here are a few reminders before you take your vehicle in for its annual safety inspection.

The window tint regulation pertains to the five pieces of glass: 1) Driver’s side window, 2) Passenger side window, 3) Side window behind the driver, 4) Side window behind the passenger, and 5) Rear windshield.

The vehicle will fail the safety inspection if its aftermarket window tint has any of the following conditions:

- If the Window Tint Meter (which is the measuring device used by the inspector) reads less than 35% light transmittance. The percentage number that the meter reports indicates the amount of light that will transmit through both the window and the tint film applied to the applicable pieces of glass.
• The windshield cannot have tinting or reflective material applied that is lower than 6” from the top of the windshield, or lower than the AS1 markings located on the left or right side of the windshield.

• If the rear window is tinted with aftermarket tint, and the vehicle does not have two outside rear view mirrors.

• Any poster, sticker decal, or other item attached to the windshield in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of the operator.

**Tint that is Exempt from 540 CMR 4.04 (8.) (g.) Window Tinting Standards**

• All window tinting as provided by the original manufacturer;

• Authorized vehicles used to transport law enforcement canine (K-9) teams;

• Vehicles registered in a state other than Massachusetts;

• Vehicles for which a medical exemption has been issued by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Registry of Motor Vehicles (MassDOT/RMV) because the operator has been certified by the physician as being photophobic/photosensitive. To apply for a Tinted Glass Medical Waiver, use this form: [http://www.massrmv.com/rmv/forms/21858.pdf](http://www.massrmv.com/rmv/forms/21858.pdf);

• All windows to the rear of the operator’s seat on vehicles used for public livery. This exception does not apply to taxi cabs;

• Any vehicle registered to the federal, state or local law enforcement agencies; and

• Vehicles registered to watch guard or patrol agencies licensed under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), Chapter 147, Section 20 or M.G.L. Chapter 122, Section 63.