



EMAIL admin@iwfa.com  
PHONE 276.666.4932  
FAX 276.666.4933

www.iwfa.com  
P.O. BOX 3871  
MARTINSVILLE, VA 24115

## Bulletin Re Ontario Tint Laws

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It is a known fact that there will be a new safety inspection standard introduced in Ontario, and the effective date for this was July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. There is a good deal of information already in the field and, unfortunately, some of this information is incorrect.

The International Window Film Association (IWFA) has been involved with Ontario's Ministry of Transportation over the last while. Our next meeting with them is scheduled for July 18th. Here is a synopsis of what has taken place up until the present time:

- There were two (2) previous inspection standards dating back approximately 40 years.
- Through the new standard that will going into effect, the intent was to amalgamate the previous 2 standards into a single entity, while updating some of the items. Unfortunately, window film is one of those items where there has been an update.
- Under the previous standards, the safety standard requirement for window film was effectively the same as what was provided for in the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).
- However, with the new standard, they have now adopted what is effectively the OEM requirement, which is a net 70% VLT. This will definitely be at variance with the HTA, which basically states that the combination of film and glass will not substantially obscure vision from the exterior.
- It is important to note that, notwithstanding the above, the new standard will only apply to vehicles manufactured after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. It would appear that, from reports that we are getting, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has not been conveying clear information on this. This situation has now been addressed with the MTO.
- It is equally as important that the Ministry of Transportation have made an absolute statement that they have no intention of modifying the HTA, as it pertains to window film.
- With the new standard, any amendments or changes can be done at the ministerial level, as opposed to going through the legislative process. This will definitely simplify the ability to make any changes that might be required.

Through all of this, we have a definite interval of time to work with the Ministry to correct the inequity that currently exists for window film.

Further updates will be provided, as required.

It is important to note that this situation pertains to Ontario, only, but there is always the possibility that a similar situation could develop in another Province. The IWFA has been very active with the Ontario situation, and they will be equally as active for any other Canadian situation. If you are not yet a member of the IWFA, please consider becoming a member, to support what is being done on behalf of our industry. Please access the IWFA website ([www.iwfa.com](http://www.iwfa.com)), if you are interested in joining. There is definite strength in numbers!