



# CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

## GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: AUGUST 11, 2025	CHAPTER: 4 – Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 4	NUMBER: 4.06.18
SUBJECT: WINDOW TINT METERS			
CHIEF: <i>Dorothy A. Todd, Chief</i>			

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines, regulations, maintenance, training for the use of window tint meters.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police that officers use window tint meters to verify violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4513.241; Using tinted glass and other obscuring materials.

### DEFINITIONS:

#### Section 4513.241 | Using tinted glass and other vision obscuring materials. Ohio Revised Code:

(A) The director of public safety, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt rules governing the use of tinted glass, and the use of transparent, nontransparent, translucent, and reflectorized materials in or on motor vehicle windshields, side windows, sidewings, and rear windows that prevent a person of normal vision looking into the motor vehicle from seeing or identifying persons or objects inside the motor vehicle.

(B) The rules adopted under this section may provide for persons who meet either of the following qualifications:

- (1) On November 11, 1994, or the effective date of any rule adopted under this section, own a motor vehicle that does not conform to the requirements of this section or of any rule adopted under this section;
- (2) Establish residency in this state and are required to register a motor vehicle that does not conform to the requirements of this section or of any rule adopted under this section.

(C) No person shall operate, on any highway or other public or private property open to the public for vehicular travel or parking, lease, or rent any motor vehicle that is registered in this state unless the motor vehicle conforms to the requirements of this section and of any applicable rule adopted under this section.

(D) No person shall install in or on any motor vehicle, any glass or other material that fails to conform to the requirements of this section or of any rule adopted under this section.

(E)(1) No used motor vehicle dealer or new motor vehicle dealer, as defined in section 4517.01 of the Revised Code, shall sell any motor vehicle that fails to conform to the requirements of this section or of any rule adopted under this section.

- (2) No manufacturer, remanufacturer, or distributor, as defined in section 4517.01 of the Revised Code, shall provide to a motor vehicle dealer licensed under Chapter 4517 of the Revised Code or to any other person, a motor vehicle that fails to conform to the requirements of this section or of any rule adopted under this section.

(F) No reflectorized materials shall be permitted upon or in any front windshield, side windows, sidewings, or rear window.

PAGE: 2 of 4	SUBJECT: WINDOW TINT METERS	NUMBER: 4.06.18
-----------------	--------------------------------	--------------------

(G) This section does not apply to the manufacturer's tinting or glazing of motor vehicle windows or windshields that is otherwise in compliance with or permitted by federal motor vehicle safety standard number two hundred five.

(H) With regard to any side window behind a driver's seat or any rear window other than any window on an emergency door, this section does not apply to any school bus used to transport a child with disabilities pursuant to Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code, whom it is impossible or impractical to transport by regular school bus in the course of regular route transportation provided by a school district. As used in this division, "child with disabilities" has the same meaning as in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code.

**Tint Meter** - device that when placed on a window of a motor vehicle, will provide the officer with the percent of light transmittance of the window tint in question.

**Visible Light Transmittance (VLT)** - the amount of light that passes through glass.

## PROCEDURES:

- I. General Guidelines
  - A. Officers shall complete training in the use of a tint meter before operating.
  - B. Officers shall make every attempt to maintain and preserve the equipment while using tint meters.
  - C. Prior to the use of tint meters, a calibration test shall be completed.
- II. Calibration
  - A. Tint meters utilized by the Cleveland Division of Police (Enforcer II by Laser Labs) are auto calibrated the moment the meter is powered on.
  - B. To verify calibration is accurate, members shall test the unit against the samples provided by the manufacturer.
  - C. Meters that fail the calibration tests shall be removed from service and will not be used until it is properly calibrated.
- III. Tint Restrictions
  - A. Windshield
    1. Non-reflective tint is allowed on the top five inches of the windshield.
    2. The remainder of the windshield is prohibited of obtaining tint.
  - B. Front side windows
    1. Must allow more than fifty percent of Visible Light Transmission (VLT).
    2. No reflectorized materials permitted.

PAGE: 3 of 4	SUBJECT: WINDOW TINT METERS	NUMBER: 4.06.18
-----------------	--------------------------------	--------------------

- C. Back side windows/ Rear window
  - 1. Any darkness can be used.
  - 2. No reflectorized materials permitted.

- D. Side mirrors
  - 1. No restrictions.

#### IV. Tint Exemptions

- A. Per Chapter 4725 of the Revised Code, persons with a physical condition that make it necessary to equip their vehicle with sun screening material which would be of a light transmittance and/or luminous reflectance in violation of ORC 4513.241 shall be afforded an exemption.
  - 1. The person afflicted or driver of the vehicle shall be in possession of an affidavit signed by an optometrist at all times while in the motor vehicle.
- B. Vehicles with tinting or glazing that is otherwise in compliance with or permitted by “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205” (FMVSS205), Code of Federal Regulations, [Title 49, Part 571](#).
  - 1. The section of tint or glazing on the vehicle shall have a label or tag indicating that it is in compliance with [Title 49, U.S.C. 30115](#).

#### V. Member Responsibilities

- A. Members shall not stop vehicles solely due to suspicion of a window tint violation.
- B. Members shall only utilize the tint meter when there is reasonable suspicion that a vehicle’s tint violates ORC 453.241; Using Tinted Glass and Other Vision Obscuring Materials.
- C. Prior to testing a vehicle for visible light transmittance (VLT), the member shall test the calibration of the tint meter using the test samples provided in the meter kit. The meter will display a reading within two percent (2%) of the labeled value.
- D. Members shall only test the tint on the vehicle’s front driver’s side and/or front passenger side windows.
  - 1. Ensure the window is rolled down at least halfway.
  - 2. Members may use a dry cloth to wipe the window of any dirt prior to testing the tint.
  - 3. Press the meter downward on the window until the window is touching the top of the slot; the meter will display the VLT reading.
  - 4. Meters that display a reading below 50% are in violation of ORC 4513.241.

PAGE: 4 of 4	SUBJECT:  WINDOW TINT METERS	NUMBER: 4.06.18
-----------------	------------------------------------	--------------------

## VI. Equipment Errors/Maintenance

- A. Tint meters may display the following error codes in case of faulty operation to protect the user from potential false readings:
  1. “bat” – Low battery
  2. E1 – Autocalibration error
  3. E2 - Excess stray light
  4. E3 – Factory calibration error
  5. E4 – Excess RF field
  6. E5 – Temperature extreme
- B. Low battery error code requires the battery to be replaced.
- C. All other codes shall be addressed by removing the meter from the window and reseating the meter on the window again. If the error code continues, the meter shall not be used until the meter is serviced.
- D. Meters that require service shall be reported to the Officer-in-Charge (OIC).

## VII. Officer-in-Charge Responsibilities

- A. Ensure a log is maintained of members who are assigned a tint meter in their unit/squad.
- B. Ensure any tint meters that require service are reported to the Budget Unit within one week.

## VIII. Training

- A. All sworn Division members shall be trained on the legislation, use, maintenance, and calibration of the tint meter.
- B. Training shall be completed via the Division’s Learning Management System (LMS).

**THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.**

DAT/arg  
Cleveland Community Police Commission  
Policy Unit