

For years it has been against the law to have extremely tinted windows on a passenger vehicle. Heavily tinted windows on a vehicle present a traffic hazard because those dark windows prevent other drivers from looking through your vehicle to see approaching traffic hazards.

The difficulty for police officers trying to enforce this law has always been determining if the tint was too heavy. Aiding in the enforcement of this violation are the department's newly acquired Tint Meter Enforcers, produced by Laser Labs, Inc (www.laser-labs.com). These hand held meters allow an officer to quickly test a vehicle window by placing the meter over the pane of glass. The percentage of light transmitted is digitally displayed on the meter and must be no less than thirty five percent in order to be in compliance with the law.

Before acquiring this new tool, officers utilized a Window Tint Comparison Card; a small card placed behind a violator's tinted window. Whether or not the text on the card could be read helped officers determine a violation, however ORS 815.222 is very specific in what constitutes an illegal tint and with no exact data for officers to rely on, most would be violators were issued a warning rather than a citation. It seems that very few violators corrected the violation after receiving these warnings. The quick and accurate data provided by the electronic meters is changing that habit, and drivers can expect more enforcement of this law.

The City of Independence Police Department recently adopted the Correctable Violations Program (Fix-it-Ticket). With the implementation of this program comes a new focus on certain qualifying traffic violations, including ORS 815.222, Illegal Window Tinting.

To familiarize yourself with the City of Independence Correctable Violations Program or ORS 815.222 visit the police department's website at www.independencpolice.org.