



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Tint Meters*

Number: 260

Effective Date: *April 30, 2010*

Revised Date:

Rescinds:

Dated:

Approved By:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this regulation is to establish a procedures, guidelines and regulations for Tint Meters.

DISCUSSION

Window tint violations have the potential to be a hazard to the operators of motor vehicles, as well as a safety concern to the officers involved in traffic enforcement and criminal enforcement as it relates to traffic offenses. An effective tool in gaining compliance of vehicle operators as well as businesses that install window tint is a device referred to as a Tint Meter. The Myrtle Beach Police Department has adopted the use of a window film measurement device to be referred to as a Tint Meter. While there is no established State Code, this Procedure is set forth to ensure uniformity in regards to enforcement.

DEFINITION

1. Light Transmittance – is the ratio of the amount of total visible light to pass through a product or material to the amount of the total light falling on the product or material.
2. Reference Samples – are known sample sets that provide the operator the ability to ensure that a tint Meter is in proper working order prior to checking a suspected violation on a motor vehicle.

3. Tint Meter – is a battery powered 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.
4. Tint Meter Coordinator – is an officer designated by the Chief of Police to oversee the Tint Meter program. The Traffic Section Lieutenant shall be designated as the coordinator.
5. Window – is defined by *South Carolina State Code 56-5-5015*. It is referred to as the Sun-screening device, window tint, or window film. For the purposes of this Procedure and Regulation, it will be referred to as “window tint”.

TRAINING

1. No officer in this department will use or operate the Tint Meter unless the officer has completed training in use of the Tint Meter.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

1. As a result of this training, officers should be able to:
 - A. Understand the guideline set forth by *South Carolina State Code 56-5-5015*, and when they apply to certain vehicles (i.e. Passenger cars, Sport Utility Vehicles, and Trucks, etc.)
 - B. Demonstrate the ability to properly test the Tint Meter to ensure proper readings.
 - C. Demonstrate the ability to properly test window tint on a motor vehicle.
 - D. Demonstrate how to properly store the Tint Meter and accessories.
 - E. Identify officer safety concerns in regards to use of the Tint Meter.
2. Once an officer has successfully completed training, a certificate of completion shall be placed in that officer's training file.

PROCEDURE

1. The Tint Meter and the Reference Samples shall be assigned by a Shift Supervisor to officers that have successfully completed the pre-requisite training and shall be returned to a Shift Supervisor at the completion of the officer's shift.

2. The Tint Meter and Reference Samples shall be kept stored in the original case that the Tint Meter is supplied in. This hard case will provide protection for both the Tint Meter and the Reference Samples while being carried in the patrol vehicle. Officers should stow the case and contents in a secure location in order to prevent the case acting as a projectile in the event of a collision.
3. Prior to testing a motor vehicle, the officer shall activate the device and test it with the accompanying Reference Samples. This test shall be completed prior to each encounter to ensure the Tint Meter is functioning properly, and shall be in compliance with prior training.
4. Once contact has been made with a violator, the officer needs to be aware of officer safety issues and, if deemed necessary, should have a back-up officer on scene. The window(s) in question should be checked twice each in order to ensure an accurate reading by the Tint Meter. The officer should ensure the window is free from debris in order to prevent damage to the Tint Meter.
5. Any damage to the Tint Meter/Reference Samples should be immediately reported to the officer's Shift Supervisor, and all necessary paperwork shall be completed, as required for property damage/loss. In the event the Tint Meter stops functioning properly, the assigned officer should ensure that the battery is not dead or defective. The Tint Meter requires one 9 volt battery for operation. Should the Tint Meter/Reference Samples need to be replaced or repaired, it should be returned to the Shift Supervisor who will then forward the defective Tint Meter/Reference Samples to the Tint Meter Coordinator. The Tint Meter Coordinator will be notified of any maintenance issues or damage in order to address repair/replacement issues, as well as for the purpose of proper documentation.

TINT METER COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Tint Meter Coordinator will be responsible for creation and implementation of the training, in coordination with the Training Division. The Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining a list of officers that have successfully completed the Department mandated training, in addition to the below listed documentation.
2. The Tint Meter Coordinator will be responsible for an audit on all Tint Meters as well as the Reference Samples, to be completed on a quarterly basis. The Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining records on each device. The records for each device will include, but are not limited to, initial paperwork received with each Tint Meter, sign-out sheets/logs, quarterly inspection reports, and any additional paperwork pertaining to the maintenance and upkeep of each device.