



SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE	J216™	SEP2021
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Superseding J216 DEC2020		
(R) Motor Vehicle Glazing - Electrical Circuits		

RATIONALE

SAE J216 is revised to update web links and add reference to SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1.

1. Scope

This SAE Recommended Practice establishes limits for electrical circuits on motor vehicle safety glazing materials.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Publications

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest version of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

SAE J100	Class "A" Vehicle Glazing Shade Bands
SAE J673	Automotive Safety Glazing Materials
SAE J903	Passenger Car Windshield Wiper Systems
SAE J1050	Describing and Measuring the Driver's Field of View
SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1	Standard for Safety Glazing Materials for Glazing Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Equipment Operating on Land Highways - Safety Standard

2.1.2 ANSI Accredited Publications

Copies of these documents are available online at <http://webstore.ansi.org/>.

SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1	Standard for Safety Glazing Materials for Glazing Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Equipment Operating on Land Highways - Safety Standard
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https://www.sae.org/standards/content/J216_202109/

2.1.3 U.S. Government Publications

Copies of these documents are available online at <https://quicksearch.dla.mil>.

FMVSS 49 CFR 571.205 Glazing Materials

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS

Electrical conductors used to carry current for lighting, antennas to facilitate communication, special sensors, and heating to promote vision through the removal of moisture condensation, ice films, or snow.

3.2 SAFETY GLAZING MATERIALS

Per SAE J673, glazing material consisting of organic and/or inorganic materials so constructed or treated to minimize the likelihood of injury to persons as a result of contact with these safety glazing materials when used in a vehicle, and which complies with specified requirements for visibility, strength, and durability.

3.3 WINDSHIELD

The principal forward-facing, safety glazing material provided for forward vision in operating a motor vehicle.

3.4 REAR WINDOW

The principal rearward-facing, safety glazing material in a motor vehicle.

3.5 PRIMARY REAR VISION AREA

This is the "Indirect Field of View" afforded by the inside rear view mirror. The mirror vision through the backlight should provide a minimum of an unobstructed 20-degree horizontal field of view and an unobstructed vertical field of view, which includes the horizon and the road 60.9 m (200 feet) rearward of the driver's SgRP. The procedures specified in SAE J1050 FEB2009 should be used to measure the rear vision area.

3.6 SIDE WINDOW

The safety glazing material to the right and left of the driver, including those adjacent and to the rear of the driver.

3.7 GLAZING NOT REQUISITE FOR DRIVING VISIBILITY

The safety glazing materials, or areas thereof, that are in locations defined as not required for vision in operating a motor vehicle.

4. GENERAL

This document defines the limits of electrical circuits on motor vehicle safety glazing materials. The safety glazing materials used may be of any type that meets the requirements of FMVSS 205 and SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1, which define glazing types, permissible for use in the various body positions, dependent upon requisite vision areas applicable to the vehicle classification.

Presently there are two types of electrical circuits: opaque and transparent. Opaque types consist of either small conductive elements (e.g., wires) in or on the plastic interlayer of the laminated safety glazing material or conductors integral with the surface of a safety glazing material. Opaque conductors shall be of low reflectivity and of neutral or unobtrusive color.

Transparent types consist of very thin electrically conductive coatings, which when utilized in a safety glazing material that complies with the applicable luminous transmittance requirements described in FMVSS 205 and SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1.

The electrical circuits shall not interfere with or degrade the safety properties of a safety glazing material. To minimize the potential for electrical, thermal, or electromagnetic exposure to the occupants, glazing materials with electrical circuits should be jointly designed by the glazing and motor vehicle manufacturers.

As electric conductors may also reduce vision or cause optical distortion, a practical limitation of their use is desirable. Until substantial research data are obtained, which do not exist at the present, limitation in the use of electrical circuits must be based on present manufacturing processes, practices, and existing data on field of view. Consequently, this document will be reviewed periodically and revised as additional information becomes available.

5. SAFETY GLAZING MATERIALS - ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS

5.1 Areas Not Requisite for Driving Visibility

There is no limitation on the use of electrical circuits with safety glazing materials in those areas defined by SAE J100, SAE J1050, SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1, and FMVSS 205 as not requisite for driving visibility.

5.2 Windshields

5.2.1 Opaque Electrical Circuits

Opaque conductors shall not exceed 2.5% of the area defined in SAE J100 as requisite for driving visibility. Defrosting or demisting conductors up to 0.035 mm (0.0014 inch) in diameter or width, in a "zig-zag" or sinusoidal form, with a density of up to 10 wires/cm (if vertical) and 7 wires/cm (if horizontal), are acceptable but should not impair the vision areas requisite for driving visibility before, during, and after a power cycle. Opaque conductors not exceeding 0.8 mm (0.03 inch) in diameter or width are allowed outside the "B" area as defined by SAE J903 and allowed within the "B" area restricted to 38.1 mm (1.5 inches) wide vertical strip each side of the vertical centerline of the windshield.

5.2.2 Transparent Electrical Circuits

Transparent electrical conductive coatings used in the windshield vision area shall not decrease the light transmittance below 70% as defined in SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1.

5.3 Other Windows Requisite for Driving Visibility

5.3.1 Opaque Electrical Circuits

Opaque electrical circuits shall not exceed 5% of the primary vision area of the safety glazing material defined in 3.5 and should not impair the vision areas requisite for driving visibility before, during, or after a power cycle.

Any electrical conductor design is acceptable if it does not impair the window vision area requisite for driving visibility.

In other vision areas outside the primary vision area, opaque electrical conductors shall not exceed 6.5% of the area.

5.3.2 Transparent Electrical Circuits

Transparent electrical conductive coatings used in the side vision areas shall not decrease the light transmittance below 70% as defined in SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1. Exposed coatings, either exterior or interior, shall pass the abrasion requirements of Test 5.18, Abrasion Resistance, in SAE J3097/ANSI Z26.1ANSI.