### 4-11 High-mounted stop lamps

#### Reasons for rejection

**Mandatory and permitted equipment**

1. A class MA vehicle first registered or manufactured **on or after 1 January 1990** is not fitted with one high-mounted stop lamp.

2. A vehicle is fitted with more than two high-mounted stop lamps.

3. A lamp is not fitted in a central high-mounted position.

4. A lamp fitted to a group M or N vehicle, except one that does not have a rear window, or that does not have a rear window visible from the rear, has an illuminated surface that is lower than 150mm below the bottom edge of the rear window.

5. A vehicle (eg a vintage or veteran vehicle) does not meet standard stop lamp requirements, and:
   - a) does not have a valid vehicle identity card with a lighting equipment endorsement, or
   - b) does not meet the conditions of the lighting equipment endorsement in its vehicle identity card.

**Condition**

6. A lamp is insecure.

7. A mandatory lamp ([Note 2](#)) is obscured, or contains moisture in the form of large droplets, runs or puddles.

8. A lens is missing, or has a hole, crack or other damage that allows moisture or dirt to enter.

9. A reflector is damaged or has deteriorated so that light output is reduced.

**Performance**

10. When the service brake is activated:
   - a) a mandatory ([Note 2](#)) lamp does not operate, or
   - b) a lamp does not remain steadily illuminated.

11. A lamp operates when the service brake is not activated.

12. A lamp emits a light that is not:
   - a) substantially red, or
   - b) diffuse, or
   - c) projected to the rear, or
   - d) bright enough to be visible from 100m in normal daylight, eg due to modification, deterioration, dirt or an incorrect light source.

13. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), fewer than 75% of these operate.

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**Note 1 Definitions**

**High-mounted stop lamp** means a stop lamp that is designed to be fitted in a central, high-mounted position at the rear of a vehicle.

**Stop lamp** means a lamp that is designed to operate when the service brake is activated.

**Note 2**

**Mandatory lamp** – the vehicle must have one high-mounted stop lamp that meets the equipment, condition and performance requirements. Any other high-mounted stop lamp is a permitted lamp. The permitted lamp is not required to operate, but if it does operate, it must meet the equipment, condition and performance requirements, although it may be obscured.

**Note 3**

A vehicle originally manufactured with a high-mounted stop lamp arrangement that differs from what is required or permitted in this section may retain the original high-mounted stop lamps provided they remain fitted in their original position and perform as intended by the vehicle manufacturer.

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**Summary of legislation**

**Applicable legislation**

- [Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Lighting 2004](#).

**Mandatory and permitted equipment**

1. A class MA vehicle first registered or manufactured **on or after 1 January 1990** must be fitted with one or two high-mounted stop lamps.

2. Any other vehicle may be fitted with one or two high-mounted stop lamps.

3. A lamp on a group M or N vehicle must be fitted in a central high-mounted position at the rear of the vehicle.

4. No part of a lamp’s illuminated surface must be lower than 150mm below the bottom edge of the rear window, except where there is no rear window fitted or visible from behind the vehicle.

5. A vehicle (eg a vintage or veteran vehicle) manufactured without lamps, or with lamps that cannot meet specified requirements, may obtain a
WoF if:
   a) the vehicle has a valid vehicle identity card with a lighting equipment endorsement, and
   b) the vehicle meets the conditions of that endorsement.

**Condition**

6. A high-mounted stop lamp must be in good condition.

7. At least one high-mounted stop lamp must not be obscured.

**Performance**

8. A high-mounted stop lamp must operate in a way that is appropriate for the lamp and the vehicle.

9. The light emitted from a high-mounted stop lamp must be diffuse light that is substantially red.

10. A high-mounted stop lamp must emit a steady light.

11. At least one unobscured lamp must operate when the vehicle’s service brakes are activated.

12. Where a high-mounted stop lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), at least 75% of these must operate.

**Modifications**

13. An overlay has been applied that reduces or distorts the light emitted from the lamp (eg a tinted cover).

14. A high-mounted stop lamp that is affected by a modification:
   a) must meet equipment, condition and performance requirements, and
   b) does not require LVV specialist certification.

Page amended 2 December 2019 (see amendment details).