

Correct as at 17th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > General trailers > Lighting > Forward-facing position lamps

4-6 Forward-facing position lamps

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory and permitted equipment

1. A trailer that is more than 2m wide is not fitted with one pair of lamps.
2. A trailer is fitted with more than two lamps.
3. A trailer less than 2m wide is fitted with a single lamp on the left side of the vehicle.
4. A pair of lamps is not:
 - a) symmetrically mounted, or
 - b) mounted as far towards each side of the trailer as practicable.

Condition

5. A lamp is insecure or, if a mandatory lamp, contains moisture in the form of large droplets, runs or puddles.
6. A lens is missing, or has a hole, crack or other damage that allows moisture or dirt to enter.
7. A lamp's reflector is damaged or has deteriorated so that light output is reduced.

Performance

8. When switched on, a forward-facing position lamp does not operate.
9. When switched on, a forward-facing position lamp emits a light that is:
 - a) not substantially white or amber, or
 - b) not diffuse, or
 - c) not projected to the front, or
 - d) **not approximately equal** in colour or intensity from the other lamp in a pair, or
 - e) not steady, or
 - f) not bright enough to be visible from 200m in normal darkness, eg due to modification, deterioration, dirt or an incorrect light source.
10. A mandatory lamp emits a light that is not visible within (Figure 4-6-1):
 - a) 15° above and below the horizontal, or
 - b) 80° outboard.
11. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), fewer than 75% of these operate.

Note 1

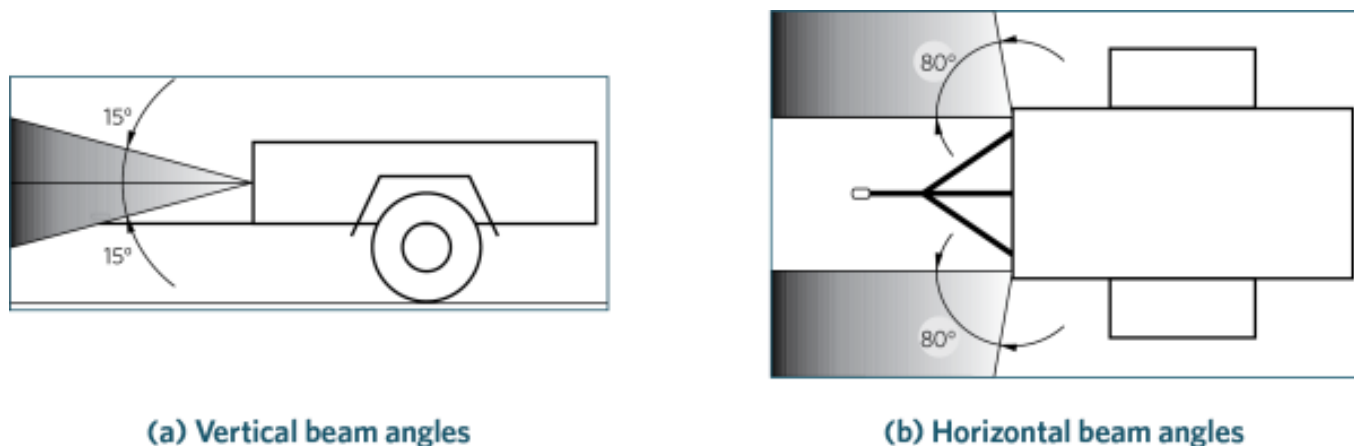
Position lamp means a low-intensity lamp that is designed to indicate to road users the presence and dimensions of a vehicle, being:

- a) a forward-facing position lamp (front side lamp), or
- b) a rearward-facing position lamp (rear side lamp or tail lamp), or
- c) a side-marker lamp, or
- d) an end-outline marker lamp (including cab roof lamp).

Note 2

A forward-facing permitted lamp that does not comply with the equipment, condition and performance requirements must be made to comply or be removed from the vehicle.

Figure 4-6-1. Forward-facing position lamp beam angles



Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

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

Mandatory and permitted equipment

1. A trailer more than 2m wide must be fitted with one pair of forward-facing position lamps.
2. A trailer 2m wide or less may be fitted with:
 - a) one forward-facing position lamp on the right side of the trailer, or
 - b) two forward-facing position lamps.
3. A lamp must be positioned to the front of the vehicle.

Condition

4. A forward-facing position lamp must:

- a) be in sound condition, and
- b) not be obscured (if a mandatory lamp).

Performance

- 5. A forward-facing position lamp must operate in a way that is appropriate for the lamp and the vehicle.
- 6. A lamp must emit a light that is:
 - a) diffuse, and
 - b) substantially white or amber, and
 - c) steady, and
 - d) sufficient to indicate to other road users the presence and dimensions of the trailer, and
 - e) of approximately equal intensity and colour to the other lamp in a pair.
- 7. A mandatory lamp must be visible within angles of:
 - a) 15° above and below the horizontal, and
 - b) 80° outboard.
- 8. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), at least 75% of these must operate.

Page amended **28 April 2013** (see [amendment details](#)).