

Correct as at 27th June 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Forklifts > Lighting > Rearward-facing position lamps

4-7 Rearward-facing position lamps

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory and permitted equipment

1. A forklift that is likely to be operated during the hours of darkness (where the vehicle inspector can determine that) is not fitted with at least one lamp.
2. A retrofitted pair of lamps is not:
 - a) symmetrically mounted, or
 - b) mounted as far towards each side of the vehicle as is practicable.

Condition

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

Performance

7. When switched on, a mandatory lamp does not operate.
8. When switched on, a lamp emits a light that is not:
 - a) substantially red, or
 - b) diffuse, or
 - c) projected to the rear, or
 - d) approximately equal in colour or intensity to the other lamp in a pair, or
 - e) steady, or
 - f) bright enough to be visible from 100m in normal darkness (if a mandatory lamp), eg due to modification, deterioration, dirt or an incorrect light source.
9. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), fewer than 75% of these operate.

Note 1 Definition

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 permitted rearward-facing position lamp that does not comply with equipment, condition and performance requirements must be made to comply or be disabled so that it does not emit a light.

Note 3

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

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

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

Mandatory and permitted equipment

1. A forklift operated during the hours of darkness must be fitted with at least one rearward-facing position lamp.
2. A forklift may be fitted with one or more rearward-facing position lamps.
3. A retrofitted pair of lamps must be mounted symmetrically as far towards each side of the vehicle as is practicable.
4. A lamp must be positioned to the rear of the vehicle.

Condition

5. A rearward-facing position lamp must:
 - a) be in sound condition, and
 - b) not be obscured (if a mandatory lamp).

Performance

6. A rearward-facing position lamp must operate in a way that is appropriate for the lamp and the vehicle.
7. A lamp must emit a light that is:
 - a) diffuse, and
 - b) substantially red, and
 - c) steady, and
 - d) sufficient to indicate to other road users the presence and dimensions of the vehicle, and

e) visible from a distance of 100m in normal darkness (if a mandatory lamp), and

f) of approximately equal intensity and colour to the other lamp of the pair.

8. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), at least 75% of these must operate.

Page amended **1 November 2012** (see [amendment details](#)).