

Correct as at 25th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > General vehicles > Lighting > Side-marker lamps

4-8 Side-marker lamps

Reasons for rejection

Permitted and prohibited equipment

1. A side-marker lamp is not positioned so that it gives an indication of the vehicle's dimensions.
2. A vehicle less than 6m in length is fitted with a side-marker lamp, unless the vehicle is a production vehicle and the lamp is fitted as original equipment by the vehicle manufacturer.
3. A vehicle manufactured **before 1 January 2006** has a forward-facing side-marker lamp that emits light that is not substantially white or amber.
4. A vehicle manufactured **on or after 1 January 2006** has a forward-facing side-marker lamp that emits light that is not substantially amber.

Condition

5. A lamp is insecure.
6. A lens is missing, or has a hole, crack or other damage that allows moisture or dirt to enter.
7. A reflector is damaged or has deteriorated so that light output is reduced.

Performance

8. When switched on, a side-marker lamp emits a light that:
 - a) is not substantially white or amber to the front, or
 - b) is not substantially red or amber to the rear, or
 - c) is not diffuse, or
 - d) is not approximately of the same colour and intensity on each side of the vehicle, or
 - e) does not remain steadily illuminated, or
 - f) is not bright enough to produce light that is visible from 100m in normal daylight and from 200m in normal darkness, 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.

Modifications

9. A side-marker lamp that is affected by a modification must meet equipment, condition and performance requirements.

Note 1 Definitions

Side-marker lamp means a position lamp designed to be fitted to the side of a vehicle or its load.

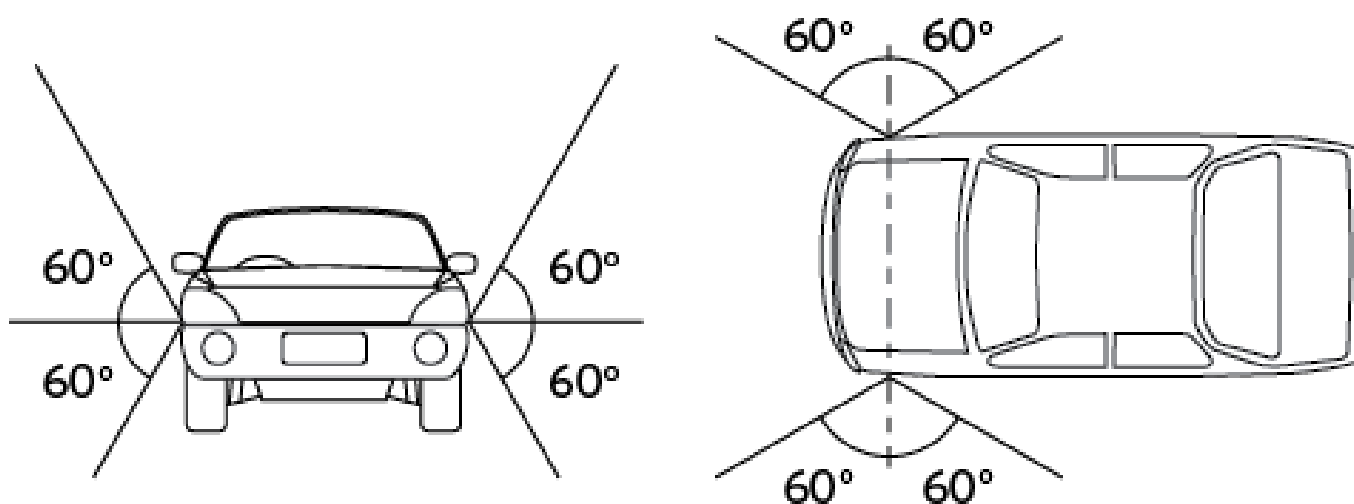
Position lamp means a low-intensity lamp that is designed to indicate to road users the presence and dimensions of a vehicle, being:

- 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 side-marker 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.

Figure 4-8-1. Visibility angles for side marker lamps



Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

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

Permitted and prohibited equipment

1. A light vehicle 6m or more in length may be fitted with one or more side-marker lamps.
2. A side-marker lamp must be positioned so that it gives an indication of the vehicle's dimensions.
3. A light vehicle less than 6m in length must not be fitted with a side-marker lamp, unless the vehicle is a production vehicle and the lamp is fitted as original equipment by the vehicle manufacturer.

4. The light emitted from a forward-facing side-marker lamp on a vehicle manufactured **before 1 January 2006** is not substantially white or amber.
5. The light emitted from a forward-facing side-marker lamp on a vehicle manufactured **on or after 1 January 2006** is not substantially amber.

Condition

6. A side-marker lamp must be in sound condition.

Performance

7. A side-marker lamp must operate in a way that is appropriate for the lamp and the vehicle.
8. A lamp must emit a light that is:
 - a) diffuse, and
 - b) substantially white or amber to the front, and
 - c) substantially red or amber to the rear.
7. A lamp must emit a steady light.
9. A side-marker lamp must provide sufficient light output to indicate to other road users the presence and dimensions of the vehicle.
10. A side-marker lamp must emit a light that is visible from a distance of 100m in daylight and 200m during the hours of darkness.
11. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), at least 75% of these must operate.

Modifications

12. A side-marker lamp that is affected by a modification must meet equipment, condition and performance requirements.