

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 It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > General vehicles > Lighting > High-mounted stop lamps

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.

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.

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](#)).