

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 It may be superseded at any time.

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

4-11 High-mounted stop lamps

Reasons for rejection

Permitted equipment

1. A vehicle is fitted with more than two high-mounted stop lamps.
2. A lamp is not fitted in a central high-mounted position.

Condition

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

Performance

6. When the service brake is activated a lamp does not remain steadily illuminated.
7. A lamp operates when the service brake is not activated.
8. 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.
9. 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

A high-mounted stop 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 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](#)

Permitted equipment

1. A vehicle may be fitted with one or two high-mounted stop lamps.
2. A lamp must be fitted in a central high-mounted position at the rear of the vehicle.

Condition

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

Performance

4. A high-mounted stop lamp must operate in a way that is appropriate for the lamp and the vehicle.
5. The light emitted from a high-mounted stop lamp must be diffuse light that is substantially red.
6. A high-mounted stop lamp must emit a steady light.
7. Where a high-mounted stop lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), at least 75% of these must operate.