

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 It may be superseded at any time.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 > Rear-reg-plate illumination lamps

4-12 Rear-reg-plate illumination lamps

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory equipment

1. A vehicle is not fitted with at least one rear-registration-plate illumination lamp.

Condition

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

Performance

5. The lamp emits a light that is not:
 - a) substantially white, or
 - b) steady, or
 - c) diffuse.
6. The lamp does not illuminate the registration plate (eg either the lamp or plate have been moved, or the lamps orientation has been changed).
7. The light source of a lamp is visible from the rear of the vehicle.

Note 1

Rear-registration-plate illumination lamp means a lamp designed to illuminate the rear registration plate of a vehicle.

Note 2

A vehicle originally manufactured with a rear-registration-plate-illumination-lamp arrangement that differs from what is required or permitted in this section may retain the original rear-registration-plate illumination 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 equipment

1. A vehicle must be fitted with one or more rear-registration-plate illumination lamps.

Performance

2. A rear-registration-plate illumination lamp must operate in a way that is appropriate for the lamp and the vehicle.
3. A lamp must emit a diffuse light that is substantially white.
4. A rear-registration-plate illumination lamp must emit a steady light.
5. The light source of the lamp must not be visible from the rear of the vehicle.
6. A lamp must illuminate the figures and letters of the plate so that they are visible from 20m during normal darkness.
7. Where a lamp comprises an array of light sources (eg LEDs), at least 75% of these must operate.

Page amended **1 October 2021** (see [amendment details](#)).