

Correct as at 26th June 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

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

## 4-15 Cosmetic lamps

### Reasons for rejection

#### Permitted equipment

1. A cosmetic lamp (ie one not listed in Table 4-15-1) that is fitted to a vehicle:
  - a) has a part of its light-emitting surface positioned within 250mm of any mandatory lamp, or
  - b) is not mounted in a fixed position, or
  - c) is positioned so that its light-emitting surface is visible within the shaded areas in Figure 4-15-1.

#### Performance

2. When switched on, a cosmetic lamp with a light-emitting surface not visible within the shaded areas in Figure 4-15-1 emits a light that:
  - a) is not diffuse, or
  - b) flashes or otherwise varies in intensity or colour, or
  - c) revolves, rotates or otherwise moves, or
  - d) is too bright and likely to dazzle other road users, or
  - e) is likely to cause confusion about the orientation of the vehicle, or
  - f) is red when seen directly from the front, or
  - g) is not red or amber when seen directly from the rear.

#### Note 1

A rear or side cosmetic lamp that does not comply with requirements for condition or performance must be made to comply, or be disabled so that it does not emit a light.

#### Note 2 Definitions

**Lamp** means a device designed to emit light, and includes an array of separate light sources that appear as a continuous illuminated surface.

**Cosmetic lamp** means any lamp that is not listed in Table 4-15-1.

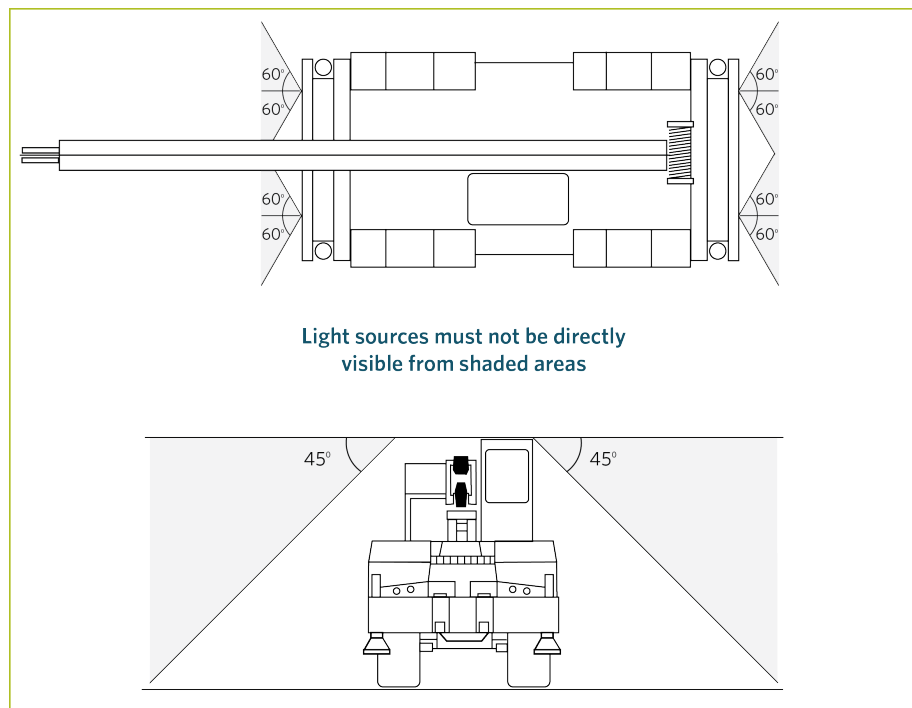
#### Note 3

A forward-facing cosmetic lamp that does not comply with the equipment, condition and performance requirements must be made to comply or be removed from the vehicle.

**Table 4-15-1. Lamps that are not cosmetic lamps**

Lamps covered in the VIRM	Other lighting equipment not requiring inspection
Headlamps	Reflective material
Stop lamps	Interior lamps
High-mounted stop lamps	<i>Designed to illuminate the interior of the vehicle for the convenience of passengers</i>
Direction indicator lamps	<i>Designed to illuminate the interior of the vehicle for the convenience of passengers</i>
Position lamps	Work lamps
(includes side-marker lamps and end-outline marker lamps)	<i>White or amber high-intensity lamps that are not necessary for the operation of the vehicle but are designed to illuminate the area around the vehicle or the vehicle itself</i>
Rear-registration-plate illumination lamps	Scene lamps
Rear reflectors	<i>Work lamps designed to provide a fixed or movable beam of light to illuminate the area around the vehicle or the vehicle itself</i>
Fog lamps	<i>Work lamps designed to provide a fixed or movable beam of light to illuminate the area around the vehicle or the vehicle itself</i>
Daytime running lamps	Alley lamps
Cornering lamps	<i>Work lamps designed primarily to provide a fixed or movable beam of light to the side of the vehicle it is fitted to</i>
Reversing lamps	<i>Work lamps designed primarily to provide a fixed or movable beam of light to the side of the vehicle it is fitted to</i>
PSV interior lamps	Flashing or revolving beacons (except a mandatory beacon required for some overdimension vehicles)
	Illuminated vehicle-mounted signs
	<i>Includes PSV destination signs, taxi signs, and variable message signs operated by enforcement officers, under a traffic management plan or permitted by other legislation</i>

**Figure 4-15-1. Visibility angles for cosmetic lamps**



## Summary of legislation

### Applicable legislation

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

### Permitted equipment

1. A vehicle may be fitted with one or more lamps not specified in Table 4-15-1, provided they are fitted so that light sources are not visible in those regions specified in Figure 4-15-1.
2. A lamp must be fitted in a fixed position on the vehicle and positioned so that no part of the light source is situated within 250mm of a mandatory lamp.

### Performance

3. A lamp must:
  - a) only emit light that is diffuse, and
  - b) not emit light that flashes or otherwise varies in intensity or colour, and
  - c) be fitted in a way, and be of a luminance that ensures, that it does not dazzle, confuse or distract other road users, and
  - d) not emit a light that revolves, rotates or otherwise moves, and
  - e) not cause confusion as to the orientation of the vehicle, and
  - f) not emit a red light that is directly visible from the front of the vehicle, and
  - g) not emit a light other than red or amber if the light is directly visible from the rear of the vehicle.