

Correct as at 16th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Heavy vehicles > Lighting > Other lighting

4-15 Other lighting

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.
2. A work lamp that is fitted to a vehicle is wired in such a way that the switch or circuit for any mandatory or optional lamp controls it.
3. Retroreflective material fitted within 150mm of a required lamp or retroreflector on a heavy motor vehicle:
 - a) does not comply with an approved vehicle standard for retroreflective material, or
 - b) is not fitted in accordance with any other enactment relating to retroreflective material on vehicles.
 - **Note:** does not apply to retroreflective material fitted to a heavy motor vehicle that is an emergency vehicle manufactured before 1 January 2006 and that was registered before 1 June 2019.

Performance

4. 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.
5. A forward-facing reflector on a vehicle reflects white light shining on it as anything other than white or amber light.
6. A side-facing reflector on a vehicle reflects white light shining on it as anything other than white or amber light.

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

A forward-facing cosmetic lamp fitted to a class NC vehicle first registered in New Zealand before 27 February 2005 that does not comply with the equipment, condition and performance requirements, must be made to comply or be disabled so that it does not emit a light. All other forward-facing cosmetic lamps that do not comply must be made to comply or be removed from the vehicle.

Note 3 Definitions

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

Work lamp means a high-intensity lamp that is not necessary for the operation of the vehicle but is designed to illuminate the area or scene and include scene lamps, spot lamps and alley lamps.

Scene lamp means a work lamp designed to provide a fixed or movable beam of light to illuminate the area around the vehicle or the vehicle itself.

Alley lamp means a work lamp designed primarily to provide a fixed or movable beam of light to the side of the vehicle it is fitted to.

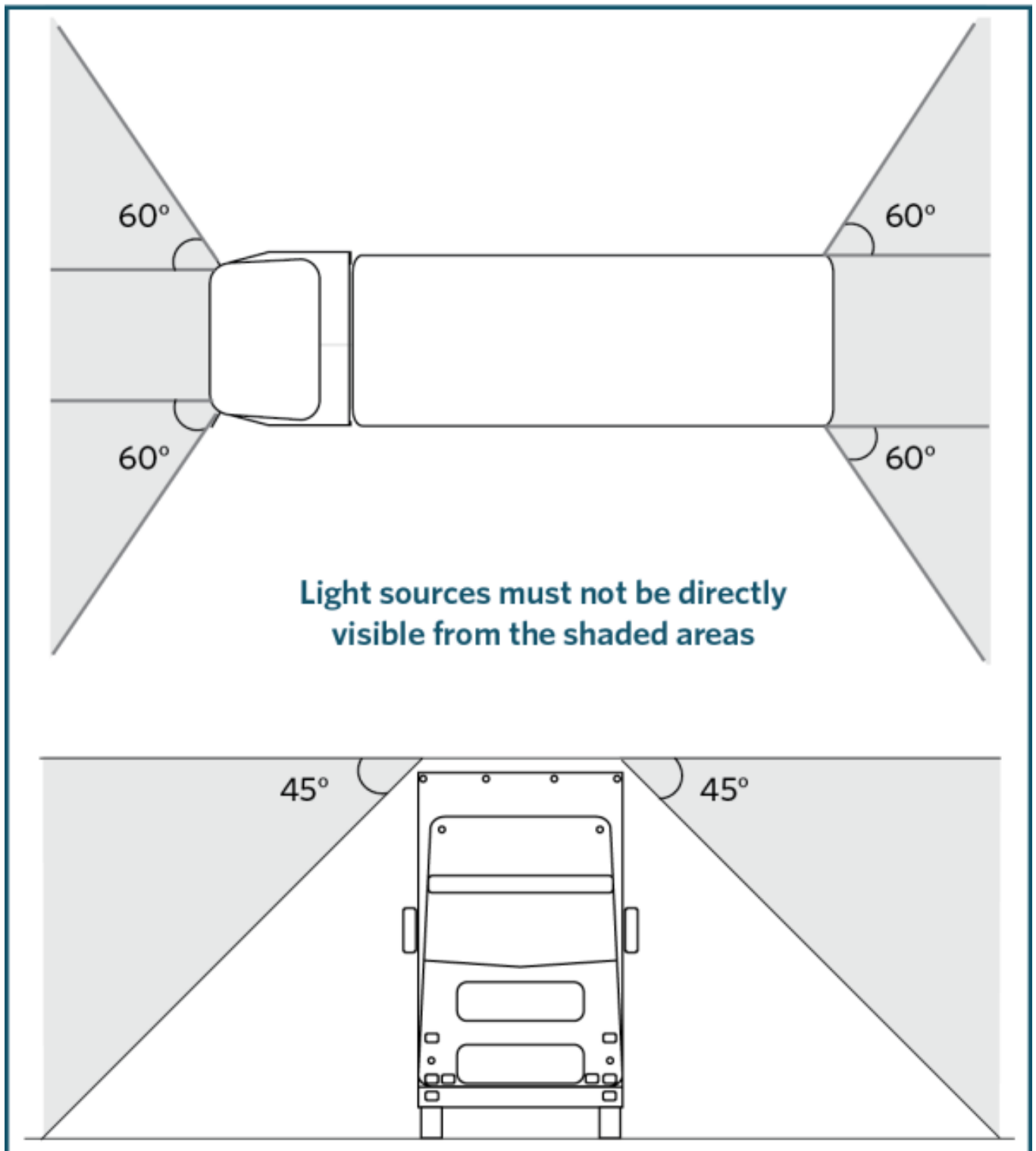
Reflective material (or **retroreflective material**) means any material that is designed to reflect incident light back towards a light source or in a specific direction; but does not include a reflector.

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

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

Lamps covered in the VIRM	Other lighting equipment not requiring inspection
<p>Headlamps</p> <p>Stop lamps</p> <p>High-mounted stop lamps</p> <p>Direction indicator lamps</p> <p>Position lamps</p> <p>(includes side-marker lamps and end-outline marker lamps)</p> <p>Rear-registration-plate illumination lamps</p> <p>Rear reflectors</p> <p>Fog lamps</p> <p>Daytime running lamps</p> <p>Cornering lamps</p> <p>Reversing lamps</p> <p>PSV interior lamps</p> <p>Work lamps</p>	<p>Interior lamps</p> <p><i>Designed to illuminate the interior of the vehicle for the convenience of passengers</i></p> <p>Flashing or revolving beacons</p> <p>Illuminated vehicle-mounted signs</p> <p><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></p> <p>A light source that is a necessary part of equipment required or permitted by any enactment to be fitted to a vehicle</p> <p><i>Includes LEDs that indicate status on eRUC labels</i></p>

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 cosmetic 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.
3. A work lamp that is fitted to a vehicle is wired in such a way that the switch or circuit for any mandatory or optional lamp controls it.

Performance

3. A cosmetic 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.
6. A forward-facing reflector on a vehicle must reflect white light shining on it as white or amber light.
7. A side-facing reflector on a vehicle must reflect white light shining on it as white or amber light.

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