

Correct as at 5th June 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

**Extract taken from:** In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Heavy 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.
2. A vehicle (eg a vintage or veteran vehicle) does not meet standard rear-registration-plate illumination 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

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, or lens, is damaged or has deteriorated so that light output is reduced.

#### Performance

6. The lamp emits a light that is not:
  - a) substantially white, or
  - b) steady, or
  - c) diffuse.
7. The lamp does not illuminate the registration plate (eg either the lamp or plate have been moved, or the lamps orientation has been changed).
8. The light source of a lamp is visible from the rear of the vehicle.
9. An overlay has been applied that reduces or distorts the light emitted from the lamp (eg a tinted cover).

#### Note 1 Definitions

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

**Modify** means to change a vehicle from its original state by altering, substituting, adding or removing a structure, system, component or equipment, but does not include repair.

**Repair** means to restore a damaged or worn vehicle, its structure, systems, components or equipment to within safe tolerance of its condition when manufactured, including replacement with undamaged or new structures, systems,

components or equipment.

## 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. At least one rear-registration-plate illumination lamp.
2. 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.

### Performance

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

### Modifications

9. A rear-registration-plate illumination lamp that is affected by a modification must meet equipment, condition and performance requirements.