

FAQs on Daytime Running Lights (DRLs)

RSA

What is a DRL? A daytime running light (DRL) or lamp is a lighting system on the front of a vehicle which automatically switches on when the vehicle is moving, emitting a white light to increase the visibility of the vehicle during daylight conditions.

Why are DRLs needed? DRLs increase a vehicle's visibility during daylight hours and therefore improve road safety.

Can DRLs be used at night time? No, as they do not produce enough light to illuminate the road at night time. DRLs are only suitable for daylight hours and when in use your lights to the rear and instrument lights may not be on in some cases so it is extremely important to remember that headlights still need to be switched on before darkness. For guidance on the correct operating procedure for DRL's fitted to a particular make or model of vehicle you should refer to owner's manual or contact the vehicle manufacturer or authorised distributor.

Can a dipped headlight be used if there is no DRL system fitted? Yes, we encourage motorists to do so.

Will a vehicle fail roadworthiness test if it does not have DRL's? It is not mandatory for DRLs to be fitted to vehicles however where fitted they must work, otherwise the vehicle will fail the roadworthiness test.

Can new vehicles be sold without DRLs? No.

- New cars and light commercial vehicles manufactured since 07 February 2011 are required to fit DRLs as specified in [Regulation \(EC\) No 661/2009](#).
- New heavy commercial vehicles and buses manufactured since 07 August 2012 are required to be fitted with DRLs.

However, the types of vehicles which were already in production prior to these dates were not obliged to comply and therefore could continue to be manufactured without DRL's after this date. It will not be until their type or model is renewed that DRLs will be required to be fitted to such types.

Can DRLs be retrofitted on vehicles? Yes. There are dedicated DRL retrofit kits available and should be type approved showing the 'E' or 'e' mark. It should also be noted that not all vehicles can have DRL's fitted due to physical constraints, so it is advisable to contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor. All additional lighting systems should be fitted strictly in accordance with Irish road traffic legislation and should not invalidate a vehicle's type approval.