

FAQs on Lighting on Vehicles

RSA

What are auxiliary lights? These are additional or extra lights which are controlled by a switch that the driver can operate in the vehicle. Please note that auxiliary lights are not the same as fog lights.

What colour light should be emitted from stop lights? Red.

- You can also view our FAQ on [Colour of Vehicle Lights](#).

What colour light should be emitted from tail or rear parking lights? Red.

Are indicators and brake lights required on push bikes or bicycles?

Pedal cycles must legally be fitted with lighting when used in a public place during daylight hours. However pedal cycles are not required to be fitted with directional indicators. For further information on lighting requirements for cyclists see RSA booklet on [Cycle Safety](#).

Are LED flash blue indicator lights illegal on a jeep? Yes. Under Section 18 of S.I. No. 189 of 1963 of Road Traffic (Lighting of Vehicles) Regulations 1963 the colour of indicator lights shall be amber.

What colour bulbs are allowed in car lighting, ice white, yellow blue...? See our FAQ on [Colour of Vehicle Lights](#).

Can strip lighting be legally fitted to the side of vehicles i.e. side bars on vans, jeeps? Yes, provided they are white to the front, amber to the side and red to the rear.

Is it illegal to drive a vehicle when LED marker lights, spot lights or fog lights are not working or defective? Yes. It is illegal to drive a vehicle with defective lights.

Is it legal to drive a vehicle when reversing lights are not working or defective? Yes. Where fitted reversing lights should be kept in proper working order at all times when a vehicle is used in a public place.

Is it illegal to replace a standard 55 watt headlight bulb with 75 watt bulb which is now available? No. However, as the bulbs you are replacing are a higher wattage you will need to seek assurance from the manufacturer or authorised distributor that the lighting system is suitable to deal with the additional extra electrical load. Under lighting regulations, it is illegal to dazzle other road users.

Can I add extra lights on rear parcel shelf or rear window? No. Under [S.I. No. 189 of 1963](#) of the Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles Regulations 1963 as amended require that *'no lamp which, when lit, is capable of misleading other traffic, shall be fitted to a vehicle'*. In addition if the driver's view of the road and other traffic – either to the front or side of the vehicle is limited or distorted by an object, e.g. sticker, signage etc. that prevents them from driving safely, then this is illegal and should be removed. Therefore, no additional lighting should be added to the rear of the vehicle which might contravene this.

What is the maximum height for lights on a boat trailer weighing less than 750 kg?

Lighting of vehicle requirements are set out under [S.I. No. 189 of 1963](#) in the Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles Regulations 1963 as follows:

12 Rear lamps.

(5)(b) No part of the illuminated surfaces of the lamps shall be less than 15 inches from the ground,

(c) No part of the illuminated surfaces of the lamps shall be more than 3 feet from the ground in the case of passenger vehicles and station wagons having passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons, and 4 feet from the ground in any other case.

13 Stop lamps.

(6) The lamps shall be fitted as nearly as possible at the same height, and no part of the illuminated surfaces of the lamps shall be less than 12 inches or more than 4 feet from the ground.

18 Direction indicators.

(5) No part of the illuminated surface of a direction indicator shall be more than 6 feet or less than 16 inches from the ground.