

Additional Lights

This information bulletin provides clarification for some commonly asked questions about the installation of additional lights on light vehicles.

There are different types of light assemblies that may be fitted to a vehicle providing the light assembly and light emitted, its fitment, and its use comply with relevant vehicle standards and the road rules. This information bulletin provides a brief outline of these requirements. Further information is available by contacting the Vehicle Management Unit on the details provided at the end of this bulletin.

Additional lights must be fit for purpose, built and adjusted to provide the necessary amount of light, without dazzling the driver or another vehicle approaching or being approached, by the vehicle.

Driving Lights (including LED light bars)

These lights are designed to provide additional illumination when travelling off-road and in open road areas when appropriate.

Currently there is no regulatory requirement in Tasmania prohibiting the fitment of driving lights to the roof of a vehicle. However, where fitted the light assembly must be positioned in the front half of the vehicle when measured from the front and rear most points (excluding any load). In addition, a driving light must be installed so the light emitted does not cause discomfort to the driver either directly or indirectly or dazzle other road users. Extreme care must be taken when a driving light is fitted in these locations as there is an increased potential to cause discomfort to the driver by the light reflecting from vehicle surfaces like the bonnet, rear side of bull bars or from mounting brackets for UHF antennas etc.



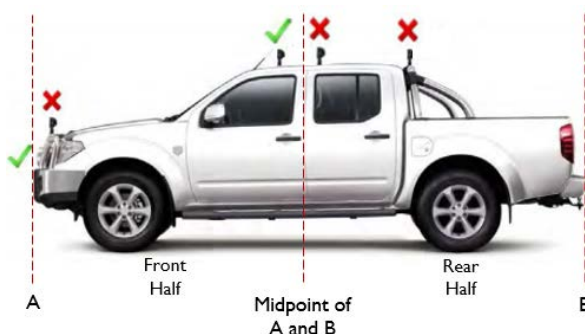
Where fitted driving lights must be wired so that they switch on and off with the main beam (high beam) headlight and project a white light forward of the vehicle.

Tasmanian Road Rules prevent the use of driving lights or high beams:

- When you are less than 200 metres behind another vehicle,
- When you are less than 200 metres from any oncoming vehicle, or
- To dazzle another road user, or in a way that is likely to dazzle another road user.

A maximum of 4 additional lights may be fitted to the front of a vehicle and must not be fitted in a manner that would be considered a dangerous protrusion (for example the top of a bull bar; however they may be fitted within the confines of the bull bar).

Figure 1 below identifies locations where additional lights may or may not be fitted.



Additional Lights

If an LED light bar has the ability to have sections switched on and off independently, then each independently controlled section counts as one light.

Driving lights must be mounted symmetrically either side of the vehicles longitudinal centre line and must not obstruct the drivers view of the road ahead or immediately in front of the vehicle.

Driving lights fitted must be appropriate for the vehicle, adequately attached, and its operation must be when appropriate so as not dazzle drivers either via direct light or from reflective surfaces.

Daytime Running Lights

Daytime running lights are an optional light and when fitted are designed to increase the visibility of a vehicle to other road users during daylight hours. The light pattern dispersed by daytime running lights is designed to make the vehicle more conspicuous to all road users without causing unnecessary glare or discomfort. After-market daytime running lights may be fitted to vehicles if they are fitted in accordance with relevant legislation.

Daytime running lights turn on automatically when the engine starts and must be wired so that they are turned off when the headlights are on unless the headlight is being used as a flasher signal.

They must not be fitted in a manner that may be classed as a dangerous protrusion.

Daytime running lights must only be fitted in pairs, and if fitted to a vehicle with 4 or more wheels, must be positioned so that they meet the following dimension requirements.

	Distance from outer edge of the vehicle	Distance between daytime running lights	In height
Vehicle manufactured prior to October 1991	Maximum of 510 mm to the centre of the light	At least 600 mm between the centres of each light. 400 mm if the vehicle is less than 1300 mm in width.	N/A
Vehicle manufactured from 1 October 1991 onwards	N/A	At least 600 mm between the illuminating lenses of the lights. 400 mm if the vehicle is less than 1300 mm in width.	Not less than 250 mm above the ground and not more than 1500 mm.

Fog Lights

Fog lights are optional lights which are fitted to the front of a vehicle to improve illumination of the road in fog, snow fall, heavy rain or dust clouds. Fog lights emit a low, narrow vertical pattern of light with a wide lateral spread. People are often confused as to what is classed as a fog light, if you are unsure please refer to the owner's manual provided with your vehicle to ascertain if it is fitted with fog lights.

A Rear fog light is an optional light (other than a brake light, a tail light, a number plate light or a reversing light) fitted to the rear of a vehicle to make the vehicle more easily visible from the rear in fog, snowfall, heavy rain or dust clouds.

Additional Lights

Front fog lights must be white or yellow in colour and rear fog lights must only emit a red light. Up to 2 lights may be fitted towards the front of the vehicle. The centre of a fog light must not be above the centre of the low beam headlight. Fog lights must not be fitted in such a way they may be considered a dangerous protrusion or dazzle other road users when operating.

The driver must be able to turn the front and rear fog lights on and off independent from other lights. It is a requirement for vehicles from October 1991 that a tell-tail light must illuminate on the dashboard when the fog lights are operating.

The Tasmanian Road Rules prevent the use of fog lights unless driving in fog or other hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility.

	Distance from outer edge of the vehicle	In height
Vehicle manufactured prior to October 1991	Maximum of 400 mm to the centre of the light unless the centres of each fog light are at least 600 mm apart.	Centre of the fog light must be no higher than the centre of the low-beam headlight.
Vehicle manufactured from 1 October 1991 onwards	Maximum 400 mm from the extreme outer edge of the vehicle.	Height requirements depend on the vehicle type. Please contact the Vehicle Management Unit for further assistance. When making contact please have the vehicle CATEGORY as identified in the vehicles compliance plate.

High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lights

Fitting HID lights to non-HID light assemblies is not permitted.

HID lights are more efficient than traditional incandescent lights due to displaying a greater proportion of visible light rather than heat, the light that they emit may appear to have a blue tinge.

A requirement of fitting HID lights is that a complete system be fitted. The system includes a specific lens design, headlight cleaning and auto level devices, these are required to reduce the chances of dazzling other road users.

LED Replacement Globes

LED replacement globes do not meet the requirements of the ADRs when fitted to original manufactured light assemblies originally designed for incandescent type globes. Many of the LED replacement globes are advertised as "Off road use only" and/or "Not ADR Approved", therefore are not suitable for use on a public street.



After Market Lights

Aftermarket headlights and tail lights have become more popular in recent times however aftermarket light assemblies may only be fitted if they are marked with an E-mark certification (Economic Commission for Europe) or they meet the ADR requirements. E-mark certification will appear upon the light assembly as indicated here, the number will vary dependent on the country for which the E-mark was awarded:



Aftermarket tinting (by using spray tint or a tinted film or covering with stockings etc) on headlights, indicators or tail lights is not permitted.

Other Lights

Lights fitted to the front of a vehicle must only emit white or yellow light (excluding direction indicators), lights fitted to the rear of the vehicle must only emit a red light (with the exception of reverse lights and direction indicators).

Aftermarket lights such as under car neon kits (ground effects), multi coloured/colour changing LED headlights, coloured park lights, coloured globes, wheel well lights, LED valve caps, wheel lights and coloured number plate lights are not permitted.

Additional Regulatory Lighting

Where the regulatory lighting of a vehicle is affected by the fitment of vehicle accessories (for example a bull bar), the vehicle must be fitted with additional lighting meeting the performance criteria of the affected lighting. This includes operation, colour, angle of visibility and intensity of the light emitted.

Useful Links

Australian Design Rules:

<https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/design/>

Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2014:

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/sr-2014-070>

For more information contact:

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