Additional Lights

This information bulletin aims to provide some clarification to commonly asked questions about the installation of additional lights on vehicles. There are numerous lights and lamps that are fitted to and that may be fitted to a vehicle. For safety reasons there are certain requirements for where these lights or lamps should be placed, how many lights may be fitted and how they should be used. This information sheet provides a brief outline of these requirements. At all times the regulatory requirements take precedence over the information provided here.

Additional head/driving lights may not be fitted in these locations:

- On top of the bulbar above the bonnet line, on the roof, on the roof rack or on the roll bar.

Fog Lights

Fog lights are optional lights which are fitted to the front of a vehicle to improve illumination of the road in fog, snowfall, heavy rain or dust clouds. Fog lamps 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 lamp, if you are unsure please refer to the owner’s manual provided with your vehicle to ascertain if it is fitted with fog lamps.

A Rear fog lamp 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.

Front fog lights must be white or yellow in colour and rear fog lamps must only emit a red light. Up to 2 lamps maybe fitted towards the front of the vehicle, they must be situated no more than 400mm from the outer edge of the vehicle and be no less than 250mm above the ground. The maximum height permitted is dependent on the vehicle. The centre of a fog light must not be above the centre of the low beam headlight. Passenger cars and light goods vehicles must be no higher than 800mm above the ground all other vehicles must be no more than 1200mm above the ground apart from off-road vehicles which may have the lights fitted to a maximum of 1500mm above the ground. Fog Lamps may be concealed when not in use.

Fog lamps must not be fitted in such a way that 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 or 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.

Fog lights must not be illuminated unless fog or other reduced visibility conditions exist.
Driving Lights

Are designed to illuminate the road over a long distance. Driving lights must be wired so that they switch on and off with the main beam (high beam) headlight. Never use your lights to dazzle another road user.

Driving lights/High beams must not be used when:

- You are less than 200m behind another vehicle.
- You are less than 200m from any oncoming vehicle.

A maximum of 4 additional lamps may be fitted to the front (not roof racks or roll bars) of a vehicle and must not be fitted in a manner that they would be considered a dangerous protrusion (for example not on top of the bull bar, they may be fitted within the confines of the bull bar) and the light emitted does not cause discomfort to the driver or other road users either directly or indirectly through the rear view mirrors and/or other reflecting surfaces of the vehicle.

LED Light Bars

ADR 13 (Australian Design Rules) has been amended removing the requirement for additional lamps to be fitted in pairs. This was done to allow the fitment of singular light bars. A LED light bar is a lamp assembly that contains multiple LED light sources in one or more rows which is used to better illuminate the road in front of the vehicle. Light bars are to only be used to supplement the vehicles high beam as an additional driving light and therefore must be wired so that they only operate with the vehicles high beam and automatically turn off when the high beam headlights are turned off.

LED Light Bars/High beams must not be used when:

- You are less than 200m behind another vehicle.
- You are less than 200m from any oncoming vehicle.

A maximum of 4 additional lamps may be fitted to the front (not roof racks or roll bars) of a vehicle and must not be fitted in a manner that they would be considered a dangerous protrusion (for example not on top of the bull bar, they may be fitted within the confines of the bull bar) and the light emitted does not cause discomfort to the driver or other road users either directly or indirectly through the rear view mirrors and/or other reflecting surfaces of the vehicle. If a light bar has the ability to have sections switched on and off independently then each independently controlled section counts as one lamp and each section may only operate when the vehicle high beam lights are operating. LED light bars must not be fitted so that they obstruct the drivers view, at the front of the vehicle.

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.

Daytime running lights must only be fitted in pairs, and if fitted must be positioned so that they are not more than 400mm from the extreme outer edge of the vehicle. The centre of each light is at least 600mm from the centre of the other light. If the vehicle is narrower than 1300mm the centre of each light may be 400mm from the centre of the other light. They may be fitted not less than 250mm above the ground and not more than 1500mm from the ground. They must not be fitted in a manner that may be classed as a dangerous protrusion.

**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, headlamp cleaning and auto level devices, these are required to reduce the chances of dazzling other road users.

**LED Replacement Globes**

Recently added to the market are LED replacement globes. LED replacement globes do not meet the requirements of the ADRs. Fitted to original manufactured lamps LED globes do not provide a light display that meets the requirements. Many of the LED replacement globes are advertised as “Off road use only” and Not ADR compliant, therefore are not suitable for use on a public street.

**Search Lights/Work Lights**

A search light is classified as a light that is temporarily used to read signs or house numbers, make adjustments or repairs to a vehicle or used when handling a vehicles load. There are no specific requirements for these lights other than they must emit a white light, be positioned in a way that they are suitable for doing the above listed tasks and they may not be combined or incorporated with any other lights. When not being used for the listed tasks must remain off.

**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 lamp assembly as indicated here, the number will vary dependent on the country for which the E-mark was awarded:

![E8](image)

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

Lights fitted to the front of a vehicle must only emit white or yellow light (with the exception of indicators which are only to flash amber in colour), lights fitted to the rear of the vehicle must only emit a red light (with the exception of reverse lights which must emit a white light only and indicators which are only to flash with an amber colour). 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.

Useful Links:

AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES:

Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2014
http://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/tocview/index.w3p;cond=all;doc_id=%2B70%2B2014%2BAT%40EN%2B20140701000000;histon=;prompt=;rec=;term=Vehicle%20Standards

Information bulletin Accessories, equipment & protrusions

Bull bars

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