

V14 Additional lighting (driving, fog and search lamps)

Information Bulletin

Introduction

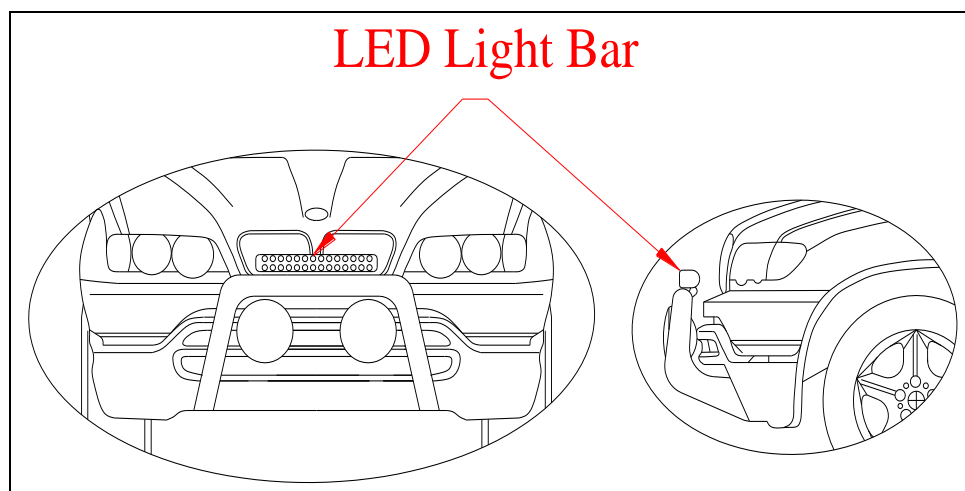
Additional lighting (such as driving lamps, fog lamps and search lamps) may be fitted to motor vehicles providing the lamps meet the requirements of this bulletin and do not compromise the vehicle's compliance with the applicable vehicle standards.

All lighting on motor vehicles must comply with the requirements of the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules and Australian Design Rules, as applicable to the vehicle.

Main/High beam headlamps and driving lamps

Motor vehicles, except motorcycles, must be fitted with at least two main beam headlamps for the purpose of illuminating the road over a long distance ahead of the vehicle – for a motorcycle, at least one main beam headlamp must be fitted.

- Up to 4 main beam headlamps may be fitted to a motor vehicle (except motorcycles) – a motor vehicle over 12 tonne Gross Vehicle Mass may have up to 6 main beam headlamps.
- Up to 4 driving lamps (spot lights) may be fitted in addition to main/high beam headlamps. A driving lamp includes a lamp where multiple light sources operate simultaneously from a single enclosed assembly (i.e. LED light bars, LED spot lights etc.).
- A combination of up to 8 main beam and driving lamps may be fitted to a motor vehicle (except motor vehicles over 12 tonnes GVM).
- There are no height restrictions to the mounting position of a driving lamp.
- The driving lamp/s must be fitted symmetrically - (same position on both sides of the vehicle). An LED light bar may be mounted as a single lamp provided it is mounted centrally in relation to the vehicle's width (refer diagram below)



- The light emitted from a main beam headlamp or driving lamp shall not cause discomfort to a driver either directly or indirectly through the rear-view mirrors and/or other reflecting surfaces of the vehicle.
- All driving lamps must turn off when the vehicle's main beam headlamps are switched to dipped or low beam.

Note:

A driver must not use, or allow to be used, any fitted to or within the driver's vehicle to dazzle, or in a way that is likely to dazzle, another road user.

Fog lamps

Fog lamps are intended to improve the illumination of the road in times of reduced visibility - which may be caused by heavy rain, smoke, dust storm or fog. These lamps produce a broad flat beam. The top of the beam must not be higher than the centre of the fog lamp, when measured 8 metres in front of the vehicle.

A motor vehicle with at least four wheels may be fitted with two fog lamps which must be mounted:

- symmetrically
- no higher than the top of the dipped beam headlamps
- not more than 400mm from the sides (extreme outer edge) of the vehicle
- at least 600mm apart
- not less than 250mm above the ground.

Fog lamps must be able to be operated independently from the headlights and driving lamps. As a minimum, they must only be able to operate when the park lamps are on.

The light emitted shall not cause discomfort by reflecting off any of the vehicle's surfaces into the driver's eyes.

Search or work lamps

Additional lamps intended to be used for temporary purposes (such as the reading of signs, handling or adjusting of loads or providing additional illumination in off-road situations) may be fitted to a vehicle in any location.

Note:

A driver must not use, or allow to be used, any fitted to or within the driver's vehicle to dazzle, or in a way that is likely to dazzle, another road user.

General requirements

Any additional driving lamps, fog lamps or work lamps fitted to a vehicle must be designed and securely fitted in a way that:

- minimises the likelihood of injury to a person making contact with the vehicle, and
- does not obstruct the driver's view of the road and traffic to the front of the vehicle.

A Northern Territory exemption from lighting requirements may not be recognised in another state or territory. Vehicle owners are advised to check with interstate authorities before any interstate travel.

More information

[Appendix 1 – Driving lamp exemption \(an exemption from the requirement to fit driving lights in pairs\)](#)

[Information Bulletin V20 Vehicle accessories and equipment](#)

[Information Bulletin V15 High output light source lamps](#)

Telephone (08) 8924 7157 or email vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au

Appendix 1

Copy of Gazette Notice S119, 26 November 2014

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Motor Vehicles Act

EXEMPTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES (STANDARDS) REGULATIONS and AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES

Driving Lamp Exemption

I, SHAAN KRISTEL NOVAK, Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to section 135 of the *Motor Vehicles Act*, exempt a motor vehicle, not including a motorcycle, from Schedule 6, Rule 20, Rule 76, 77(5) and Rule 80 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations* and Australian Design Rule 13/00 relating to the number of driving lamps that can be fitted on a motor vehicle on the condition that:

1. the maximum number of lamps must not exceed the maximum number of lamps as permitted by the Australian Design Rule, where applicable;
2. the combined maximum number of main beam and driving lamps must not exceed eight (8);
3. the lamp/s must be installed as far to the front of the vehicle as is possible;
4. the lamp/s must be fitted in a symmetrical pattern about the vertical centreline (longitudinal axis) at the front of the vehicle;
5. the lamp/s must only be switched on when the main beam headlamps are switched on, and must automatically switch off when the main beam headlamps are switched off; and
6. light emitted from any lamp/s must not cause discomfort to the driver either directly or indirectly through the rear-view mirrors and/or other reflecting surfaces of the vehicle.

Note:

- i. A driving lamp is an additional headlamp fitted to the front of a motor vehicle designed to be used in conjunction with high beam or main beam headlamps to illuminate the road a long way ahead of the vehicle.
- ii. A reference to driving lamp includes a driving light or spot light.
- iii. A driving lamp includes a lamp where multiple light sources operate simultaneously from a single enclosed assembly.

Dated 25 November 2014

S.K. NOVAK

Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles