



IB-108B

Vehicle Safety and Standards Information Bulletin

Under-Body Lighting and other Decorative Illumination

Under-body lamps

Constant coloured neon lamps are sometimes affixed to the underside of vehicles to enhance their aesthetic character. Subdued diffused coloured light is reflected off the road surface.

Generally these under-body lamps will be acceptable providing the lights themselves do not flash, and are not visible to other motorists, either when the vehicle is driven or stationary.

Prohibition on flashing lamps

Other than turn signal indicators and flashing warning lamps for emergency vehicles, flashing lamps are prohibited by the Road Traffic Code 2000.

Consequently aftermarket lamps must not be wired to flash in any way. This includes lamps that have been designed to flash in sympathy with the output of sound systems. "Sound sensitive sub woofer neons" and similar products are therefore not permitted.

Note: In some cases, a strobe effect by any lamp, internally or externally mounted to a vehicle, may adversely affect individuals prone to epilepsy who are exposed to the flashing light. A person does not need to be an occupant of that vehicle for this to occur.

Electrical wiring of additional lamps

Additional lamps must be electrically wired independently of all other lamps and must include a separate switch. The switch should be located in a position that allows the driver to easily turn the lamps on or off. Wiring must not interfere with any of the vehicle's controls and must not cause the vehicle to contravene the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002, the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 or the Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

Other safety requirements

"Electro-luminescence Cord" must not be used in a way that it is visible to any other road users if it is designed to flash or if its appearance is likely to cause confusion, distraction or a nuisance to other road users. Similarly if the additional lamps are likely to diminish the conspicuity of any statutory lighting requirements such as turn indicators or brake lamps, the additional lamps must not be used.

A vehicle fitted with coloured lighting can be given a compliance notice (defect notice/yellow sticker)

A vehicle fitted with coloured lighting can be given a compliance notice:

- Under-body lamps are visible when viewed by another driver whilst seated in a low vehicle.
- Where under-body lamps are fitted, there exist chromed under-body car components which may reflect the light unacceptably towards other road users.
- The lamps fitted can be confused with turn indicators, brake lamps, emergency warning lamps, etc.
- The lighting diminishes the conspicuity of other statutory lighting requirements.
- The lamps flash or if they can be made to flash.

Related documents and links

- Australian Design Rules are available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (www.infrastructure.gov.au)
- Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002 can be accessed on State Law Publisher website (www.slp.wa.gov.au)
- Road Traffic Code 2000 can be accessed on State Law Publisher website (www.slp.wa.gov.au)
- Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 can be accessed on State Law Publisher website (www.slp.wa.gov.au)

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