
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1989 No. 1796

The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989

PART II

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FITTING OF LAMPS,
REFLECTORS, REAR MARKINGS AND DEVICES**

Colour of light shown by lamps and reflectors

11.—(1) No vehicle shall be fitted with a lamp which is capable of showing a red light to the front, except—

- (a) a red and white chequered domed lamp, or a red and white segmented mast-mounted warning beacon, fitted to a fire service control vehicle and intended for use at the scene of an emergency;
- (b) a side marker lamp or a side retro reflector;
- (c) retro reflective material or a retro reflector designed primarily to reflect light to one or both sides of the vehicle and attached to or incorporated in any wheel or tyre of—
 - (i) a pedal cycle and any sidecar attached to it;
 - (ii) a solo motor bicycle or a motor bicycle combination; or
 - (iii) an invalid carriage; or
- (d) a traffic sign.

(2) No vehicle shall be fitted with a lamp which is capable of showing any light to the rear, other than a red light, except—

- (a) amber light from a direction indicator or side marker lamp;
- (b) white light from a reversing lamp;
- (c) white light from a work lamp;
- (d) light to illuminate the interior of a vehicle;
- (e) light from an illuminated rear registration plate;
- (f) light for the purposes of illuminating a taxi meter;
- (g) in the case of a bus, light for the purposes of illuminating a route indicator;
- (h) blue light and white light from a chequered domed lamp fitted to a police control vehicle and intended for use at the scene of an emergency;
- (i) white light from a red and white chequered domed lamp, or a red and white segmented mast-mounted warning beacon, fitted to a fire service control vehicle and intended for use at the scene of an emergency;
- (j) green light and white light from a chequered domed lamp fitted to an ambulance control vehicle and intended for use at the scene of an emergency;

- (k) blue light from a warning beacon or rear special warning lamp fitted to an emergency vehicle, or from any device fitted to a vehicle used for police purposes;
- (l) amber light from a warning beacon fitted to—
 - (i) a road clearance vehicle;
 - (ii) a vehicle constructed or adapted for the purpose of collecting refuse;
 - (iii) a breakdown vehicle;
 - (iv) a vehicle having a maximum speed not exceeding 25 mph or any trailer drawn by such a vehicle;
 - (v) a vehicle having an overall width (including any load) exceeding 2.9 m;
 - (vi) a vehicle used for the purposes of testing, maintaining, improving, cleansing or watering roads or for any purpose incidental to any such use;
 - (vii) a vehicle used for the purpose of inspecting, cleansing, maintaining, adjusting, renewing or installing any apparatus which is in, on, under or over a road, or for any purpose incidental to any such use;
 - (viii) a vehicle used for or in connection with any purpose for which it is authorised to be used on roads by an order under section 44 of the Act;
 - (ix) a vehicle used for escort purposes when travelling at a speed not exceeding 25 mph;
 - (x) a vehicle used by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for the purpose of testing fuels;
 - (xi) a vehicle used for the purpose of surveying;
 - (xii) a vehicle used for the removal or immobilisation of vehicles in exercise of a statutory power or duty;
- (m) green light from a warning beacon fitted to a vehicle used by a medical practitioner registered by the General Medical Council (whether with full, provisional or limited registration);
- (n) yellow light from a warning beacon fitted to a vehicle for use at airports;
- (o) light of any colour from a traffic sign which is attached to a vehicle;
- (p) reflected light from amber pedal retro reflectors;
- (q) reflected light of any colour from retro reflective material or a retro reflector designed primarily to reflect light to one or both sides of the vehicle and attached to or incorporated in any wheel or tyre of—
 - (i) a pedal cycle and any sidecar attached to it;
 - (ii) a solo motor bicycle or motor bicycle combination; or
 - (iii) an invalid carriage;
- (r) reflected light from amber retro reflective material on a road clearance vehicle;
- (s) reflected light from yellow retro reflective registration plates;
- (t) reflected light from yellow retro reflective material incorporated in a rear marking of a type specified in Part I Section B of Schedule 19 and fitted to—
 - (i) a motor vehicle having a maximum gross weight exceeding 7500 kg;
 - (ii) a motor vehicle first used before 1st August 1982 having an unladen weight exceeding 3000 kg;
 - (iii) a trailer having a maximum gross weight exceeding 3500 kg;

- (iv) a trailer manufactured before 1st August 1982 having an unladen weight exceeding 1000 kg;
- (v) a trailer which forms part of a combination of vehicles one of which is of a type mentioned in a previous item of this sub-paragraph;
- (vi) a load carried by any vehicle; or
- (u) reflected light from orange retro reflective material incorporated in a sign fitted to the rear of a vehicle carrying a dangerous substance within the meaning of the Dangerous Substances (Conveyance by Road in Road Tankers and Tank Containers) Regulations 1981(1) or the Road Traffic (Carriage of Dangerous Substances in Packages etc) Regulations 1986(2)

Movement of lamps and reflectors

12.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, on a road any vehicle to which, or to any load or equipment of which, there is fitted a lamp, reflector or marking which is capable of being moved by swivelling, deflecting or otherwise while the vehicle is in motion.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in respect of—

- (a) a headlamp which can be dipped only by the movement of the headlamp or its reflector;
- (b) a headlamp which is capable of adjustment so as to compensate for the effect of the load carried by the vehicle;
- (c) a lamp or reflector which can be deflected to the side by the movement of, although not necessarily through the same angle as, the front wheel or wheels of the vehicle when turned for the purpose of steering the vehicle;
- (d) a headlamp or front fog lamp which can be wholly or partially retracted or concealed;
- (e) a direction indicator fitted to a motor vehicle first used before 1st April 1986;
- (f) a work lamp;
- (g) a warning beacon;
- (h) an amber pedal retro reflector; or
- (i) retro reflective material or a retro reflector of any colour which is fitted so as to reflect light primarily to one or both sides of the vehicle and is attached to or incorporated in any wheel or tyre of—
 - (i) a pedal cycle and any sidecar attached to;
 - (ii) a solo motor bicycle or motor bicycle combination; or
 - (iii) an invalid carriage.

Lamps to show a steady light

13.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2), no vehicle shall be fitted with a lamp which automatically emits a flashing light.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in respect of—

- (a) a direction indicator;
- (b) a headlamp fitted to an emergency vehicle;

(1) S.I.1981/1059, to which there is no relevant amendment.

(2) S.I. 1986/1951.

- (c) a warning beacon or special warning lamp;
- (d) a lamp or illuminated sign fitted to a vehicle used for police purposes;
- (e) a green warning lamp used as an anti-lock brake indicator; or
- (f) lamps forming part of a traffic sign.

Filament lamps

14.—(1) Where a motor vehicle first used on or after 1st April 1986 or any trailer manufactured on or after 1st October 1985 is equipped with any lamp of a type that is required by any Schedule to these Regulations to be marked with an approval mark, no filament lamp other than a filament lamp referred to in the Designation of Approval Marks Regulations in—

- (a) regulation 4 and Schedule 2, items 2 or 2A, 8, 20, 37 or 37A; or
- (b) regulation 5 and Schedule 4, item 18,

shall be fitted to any such lamp.

(2) Where any pedal cycle manufactured on or after 1st October 1990 is equipped with any lamp that is required by any Schedule to these Regulations to be marked with a British Standard mark, no filament lamp other than a filament lamp marked with the marking indicated in the British Standard specification for Filament Lamps for Cycles published by the British Standards Institution under the reference 6873: 1988 namely “B.S. 6873” shall be fitted to any such lamp.

General requirements for electrical connections

15.—(1) Every motor vehicle first used on or after 1st April 1991 shall be so constructed that every position lamp, side marker lamp, end-outline marker lamp and rear registration plate lamp with which the vehicle is fitted is capable of being switched on and off by the operation of one switch and, save as provided in paragraph (2), not otherwise.

(2) Sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (1) shall not prevent one or more position lamps from being capable of being switched on and off independently of any other lamp referred to in that sub-paragraph.

Restrictions on fitting blue warning beacons, special warning lamps and similar devices

16. No vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle, shall be fitted with—

- (a) a blue warning beacon or special warning lamp, or
- (b) a device which resembles a blue warning beacon or a special warning lamp, whether the same is in working order or not.

Obligatory warning beacons

17.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), no person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, on an unrestricted dual-carriageway road any motor vehicle with four or more wheels having a maximum speed not exceeding 25 mph unless it or any trailer drawn by it is fitted with at least one warning beacon which—

- (a) complies with Schedule 16, and
- (b) is showing an amber light.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in relation to—

- (a) any motor vehicle first used before 1st January 1947; and

- (b) any motor vehicle, or any trailer being drawn by it, to which paragraph (1) would otherwise apply, when that vehicle or trailer is on any carriageway of an unrestricted dual-carriageway road for the purpose only of crossing that carriageway in the quickest manner practicable in the circumstances.

Obligatory lamps, reflectors, rear markings and devices

18.—(1) Save as provided in the foregoing provisions of these Regulations and in paragraph (2), every vehicle of a class specified in a Table in Schedule 1 shall be fitted with lamps, reflectors, rear markings and devices which—

- (a) are of a type specified in column 1 of that Table, and
 (b) comply with the relevant installation, alignment and performance requirements set out in the Schedule or Part of a Schedule shown against that type in column 2 of that Table.

(2) The requirements specified in paragraph (1) do not apply in respect of a lamp, reflector, rear marking or device of a type specified in column 1 of a Table in the case of a vehicle shown against it in column 3 of that Table.

(3) The requirements specified in paragraph (1) apply without prejudice to any additional requirements specified in regulations 20 and 21.

(4) The Schedules referred to in the Tables in Schedule 1 are Schedules 2 to 21.

Restrictions on the obscuration of certain obligatory lamps and reflectors

19. Every vehicle shall be so constructed that at least part of the apparent surface of any—

- (a) front and rear position lamp,
 (b) front and rear direction indicator, and
 (c) rear retro reflector,

which is required by these Regulations to be fitted to a vehicle is visible when the vehicle is viewed from any point directly in front of or behind the lamp or reflector, as appropriate, when every door, tailgate, boot lid, engine cover, cab or other movable part of the vehicle is in a fixed open position.

Optional lamps, reflectors, rear markings and devices

20. Every optional lamp, reflector, rear marking or device fitted to a vehicle, being of a type specified in an item in column 2 of the Table below, shall comply with the provisions shown in column 3 of that Table.

TABLE

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Type of lamp, reflector, rear marking or device</i>	(3) <i>Provisions with which compliance is required</i>
1	Front position lamp	Schedule 2, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Type of lamp, reflector, rear marking or device</i>	(3) <i>Provisions with which compliance is required</i>
2	Dim-dip device and running lamp	Schedule 3, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
3	Dipped-beam headlamp	Schedule 4, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
4	Main-beam headlamp	Schedule 5, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
5	Front fog lamp	Schedule 6 and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
7	Direction indicator	Schedule 7, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
8	Hazard warning signal device	Schedule 8 and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
9	Side marker lamp	Schedule 9, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
10	Rear position lamp	Schedule 10, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Type of lamp, reflector, rear marking or device</i>	(3) <i>Provisions with which compliance is required</i>
11	Rear fog lamp	Schedule 11, Part II the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules. and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
12	Stop lamp	Schedule 12, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
13	End-outline marker lamp	Schedule 13, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
14	Reversing lamp	Schedule 14 and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
15	Warning beacon	Schedule 16 and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
16	Side retro reflector	Schedule 17, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
17	Rear retro reflector	Schedule 18, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Type of lamp, reflector, rear marking or device</i>	(3) <i>Provisions with which compliance is required</i>
18	Rear marking	Schedule 19, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
19	Pedal retro reflector	Schedule 20, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.
20	Front retro reflector	Schedule 21, Part II and Parts I of Schedules 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 13 and 17 to 21 to the extent specified in Parts II of those Schedules.

Projecting trailers and vehicles carrying overhanging or projecting loads or equipment

21.—(1) No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, on a road in the circumstances mentioned in paragraph (2)—

- (a) any trailer which forms part of a combination of vehicles which projects laterally beyond any preceding vehicle in the combination; or
- (b) any vehicle of combination of vehicles which carries a load or equipment

in either case under the conditions specified in an item in column 2 of the Table below, unless the vehicle or combination of vehicles complies with the requirements specified in that item in column 3 of that Table.

TABLE

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Conditions</i>	(3) <i>Requirements</i>
1	A trailer which is not fitted with front position lamps and which projects laterally on any side so that the distance from the outermost part of the projection to the outermost part of the illuminated area of the obligatory front position lamp on that side fitted to any preceding vehicle in the combination exceeds 400 mm.	A lamp showing white light to the front shall be fitted to the trailer so that the outermost part of the illuminated area is not more than 400 mm from the outermost projection of the trailer. The installation and performance requirements relating to front position lamps do not apply to any such lamp.

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Conditions</i>	(3) <i>Requirements</i>
2	A trailer which is not fitted with front position lamps and which carries a load or equipment which projects laterally on any side of the trailer so that the distance from the outermost projection of the load or equipment to the outermost part of the illuminated area of the obligatory front position lamp on that side fitted to any preceding vehicle in the combination exceeds 400 mm.	A lamp showing white light to the front shall be fitted to the trailer or the load or equipment so that the outermost part of the illuminated area is not more than 400 mm from the outermost projection of the load or equipment. The installation and performance requirements relating to front position lamps do not apply to any such lamp.
3	A vehicle which carries a load or equipment which projects laterally on any side of the vehicle so that the distance from the outermost part of the load or equipment to the outermost part of the illuminated area of the obligatory front or rear position lamp on that side exceeds 400 mm.	<p>Either–</p> <p>(a) the obligatory front or rear position lamp shall be transferred from the vehicle to the load or equipment to which must also be attached a white front or a red rear reflecting device; or</p> <p>(b) an additional front or rear position lamp and a white front or a red rear reflecting device shall be fitted to the vehicle, load or equipment.</p>
		<p>All the installation, performance and maintenance requirements relating to front or rear position lamps shall in either case be complied with except that for the purpose of determining the lateral position of such lamps and reflecting devices any reference to the vehicle shall be taken to include the load or equipment except special equipment on a vehicle fitted with a movable platform or the jib of any crane.</p>
4	A vehicle which carries a load or equipment which projects beyond the rear of the vehicle or, in the case of a combination	An additional rear lamp capable of showing red light to the rear and a red reflecting device, both of which are

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Conditions</i>	(3) <i>Requirements</i>
	<p>of vehicles, beyond the rear of the rearmost vehicle in the combination, more than—</p> <p>(a) 2 m in the case of an agricultural vehicle or a vehicle carrying a fire escape; or</p> <p>(b) 1 m in the case of any other vehicle.</p>	<p>visible from a reasonable distance, shall be fitted to the vehicle or the load in such a position that the distance between the lamp and the reflecting device, and the rearmost projection of the load or equipment does not exceed 2m in the case mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) in column 2 of this item or 1 m in any other case. The installation and performance requirements relating to rear position lamps do not apply to any such additional lamp.</p>
5	<p>A vehicle which carries a load or equipment which projects beyond the front of the vehicle more than—</p> <p>(a) 2 m in the case of an agricultural vehicle or a vehicle carrying a fire escape; or</p> <p>(b) 1 m in the case of any other vehicle.</p>	<p>An additional front lamp capable of showing white light to the front and a white reflecting device, both visible from a reasonable distance, shall be fitted to the vehicle or the load in such a position that the distance between the lamp and the reflecting device, and the foremost projection of the load or equipment, does not exceed 2 m in the case mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) in column 2 of this item or 1 m in any other case. The installation and performance requirements relating to front position lamps and front retro reflectors do not apply to any such additional lamp and reflecting device.</p>
6	<p>A vehicle which carries a load or equipment which obscures any obligatory lamp, reflector or rear marking.</p>	<p>Either—</p> <p>a) the obligatory lamp, reflector or rear marking shall be transferred to a position on the vehicle, load or equipment where it is not obscured; or</p> <p>b) an additional lamp, reflector or rear marking shall be fitted to the vehicle, load or equipment.</p>

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Conditions</i>	(3) <i>Requirements</i>
		All the installation, performance and maintenance requirements relating to obligatory lamps, reflectors or rear markings shall in either case be complied with.

- (2) The circumstances referred to in paragraph (1) are—
- (a) as regards item 6 in the Table, in so far as it relates to obligatory stop lamps and direction indicators, all circumstances; and
 - (b) as regards items 1 to 5 in the Table and item 6 in the Table, except in so far as it relates to obligatory stop lamps and direction indicators, the time between sunset and sunrise or, except in so far as it relates to obligatory reflectors, when visibility is seriously reduced between sunrise and sunset.

Additional side marker lamps

22.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, on a road between sunset and sunrise, or in seriously reduced visibility between sunrise and sunset, any vehicle or combination of vehicles of a type specified in an item in column 2 of the Table below unless each side of the vehicle or combination of vehicles is fitted with the side marker lamps specified in that item in column 3 and those lamps are kept lit.

TABLE

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Vehicle or combination of vehicles</i>	(3) <i>Side marker lamps</i>
1	A vehicle or a combination of vehicles the overall length of which (including any load) exceeds 18.3 m.	There shall be fitted— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) one lamp no part of the light-emitting surface of which is more than 9.15 m from the foremost part of the vehicle or vehicles (in either case inclusive of any load); (b) one lamp no part of the light-emitting surface of which is more than 3.05 m from the rearmost part of the vehicle or vehicles (in either case inclusive of any load); and (c) such other lamps as are required to ensure that not more than 3.05 m separates any part of the light-emitting surface of one lamp and any part of

(1) <i>Item No.</i>	(2) <i>Vehicle or combination of vehicles</i>	(3) <i>Side marker lamps</i>
2	A combination of vehicles the overall length of which (including any load) exceeds 12.2 m but does not exceed 18.3 m and carrying a load supported by any two of the vehicles but not including a load carried by an articulated vehicle.	<p>the light-emitting surface of the next lamp.</p> <p>There shall be fitted—</p> <p>(a) one lamp no part of the light-emitting surface of which is forward of, or more than 1530 mm rearward of, the rearmost part of the drawing vehicle; and</p> <p>(b) if the supported load extends more than 9.15 m rearward of the rearmost part of the drawing vehicle, one lamp no part of the light-emitting surface of which is forward of, or more than 1530 mm rearward of, the centre of the length of the load.</p>

(2) The requirements specified in paragraph (1) do not apply to—

- (a) a combination of vehicles where any vehicle being drawn in that combination has broken down; or
- (b) a vehicle (not being a combination of vehicles) having an appliance or apparatus or carrying a load of a kind specified in the Table to regulation 82(7) or in regulation 82(8) of the Construction and Use Regulations, if the conditions specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 (which provide for the special marking of projections from vehicles) of Schedule 12 to those Regulations are complied with in relation to the special appliance or apparatus or load as if the said conditions had been expressed in the said regulation 82 to apply in the case of every special appliance or apparatus or load of a kind specified in that regulation.

(3) Every side marker lamp fitted in accordance with this regulation shall comply with Part I of Schedule 9.