

3. EQUIPMENT

This section deals with mandatory and optional equipment for your vehicle as well as suggestions for safer road use.

3.1 Lights

No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at nighttime or any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) unless the vehicle is equipped with and displays lighted lamps and illuminating devices as required for the class of vehicle so driven.

Headlamps

Every motor vehicle, except a motorcycle or motor driven cycle, must have at least two headlights displaying white light. One must be attached to each side of the vehicle not more than 140 centimetres (55 inches) from the ground and not less than 60 centimetres (24 inches). They must have an upper beam that clearly shows ahead for 100 metres (330 feet) and a lower beam that shows 30 metres (100 feet).

Lights must be dimmed within 150 metres (500 feet) of an approaching vehicle. When following another vehicle within 60 metres (200 feet) the lower beam must be used except when in the act of passing. It is permissible for a vehicle to be equipped and operated with an auxiliary lamp or spot lamp providing the total intensity does not exceed 300 candle power.



Motor Cycle Lamps

Every motorcycle must be equipped with at least one and not more than three head lamps displaying white light. The light must be strong enough to reveal a person or vehicle at 100 metres (330 feet) when speed is 60 km (35 miles) per hour or more. The lamp or lamps must be aimed so that the high intensity portion does not project higher than the level of the centre of the lamp at a distance of 750 centimetres (25 feet).

Rear Lamps

Every motor vehicle, trailer, etc. and the last vehicle in a train of vehicles must have at least two red tail lights mounted one on either side of the rear of the vehicle at a height of not more than 183 centimetres (72 inches) and not less than 38 centimetres (15 inches). This light must be visible from a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) to the rear. Every vehicle must be equipped with a white light to illuminate the rear licence plate and make it clearly readable at a distance of 15 metres (50 feet).

Clearance Lamps and Reflectors

Every bus or truck must have on the rear two red reflectors and one stop light.

Every commercial vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer 2 metres (80 inches) or more in width must have in addition to the above:

- a) On the front, one amber clearance lamp on each side.
- b) On the rear and as high as practical a red clearance lamp on each side.
- c) On each side an amber reflector at or near the front and one red near the rear.
- d) Mud flaps mounted immediately behind the rear wheels.
- e) In the vehicle, three flares, electric lanterns or portable reflectors capable of reflecting red light for a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) under normal nighttime conditions. They must also carry two red cloth flags at least 30 centimetres (12 inches) square.

Stop Lamps (Brake Lights)

Motor vehicles operated on a highway must be equipped with a red stop lamp or lamps. This lamp must be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear both during daylight and darkness.

Signal Devices

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with a lamp or lamps or mechanical signal devices capable of clearly indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left, such signal devices being visible both from the front and the rear.

A signal lamp or lamps indicating intention to turn must be visible during daylight and darkness from a distance of 30 metres (100 feet) both to the front and to the rear.

Lamps on Parked Vehicles

Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder any time when there is not sufficient light to see persons and vehicles at a distance of 150 metres (500 feet), it must be equipped with one or more lighted lamps that exhibit white or amber light on the roadway side which can be seen for 150 metres (500 feet) to the front of the vehicle and a lighted lamp visible from a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) to the rear.

Daytime Running Lights

Beginning with the model year 1990 all new vehicles must be equipped with daytime running lights which activate automatically. A vehicle using these lights is more easily seen by other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Older vehicles may be modified to produce automatic daytime running lights.

If your vehicle is not equipped with daytime running lights, it is suggested that you use your headlights at all times.

Stop Lights

It is suggested that all motor vehicles be equipped with a “stop” light. This light must be so constructed and placed where it will give a red signal to the rear of the vehicle which is plainly visible in normal sunlight from a distance of 100 metres (330 feet). The stop light may or may not be the same as the rear lamp unit.

Flashing or Revolving Lights

The use of flashing or revolving lights on motor vehicles is restricted.

A flashing or revolving red light visible from the front and rear may only be used on: (1) ambulance; (2) a police or fire department vehicle; (3) a school bus while taking on or unloading passengers.

A school bus may be equipped with flashing amber lights. In addition, flashing amber lights may be used on a vehicle transporting explosives or a motor vehicle towing a wide trailer.

Four Way Flashers

When a vehicle is equipped with a switch permitting the parking and tail lights to flash, the flashing lights can be used when the vehicle is parked on the highway or any portion thereof due to an emergency or under circumstances beyond the control of the driver.

Spot Lamps

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one spot light but it must never be so aimed that it shines directly on or within 30 metres (100 feet) in front of an approaching vehicle.

Fog Lamps

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two fog lamps and they can only be used when headlights of the vehicle are on low beam.

3.2 Brakes

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with an adequate foot brake and an emergency brake in good working order.

3.3 Horn

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order that can be heard for a distance of not less than 60 metres (200 feet) but a horn must not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or whistle. The horn should be sounded whenever it is necessary to ensure safe operation of a vehicle or to give warning of the approach of a vehicle.

Except for authorized emergency vehicles, no siren, whistle or bell is to be used.

3.4 Mirror

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 60 metres (200 feet) to the rear of such vehicle. Portable door or fender mirrors are illegal when not towing trailer or other vehicle.

3.5 Windshields and Windows

All windshields and windows must be kept clear of any signs, posters or other non-transparent material which obstruct the driver's clear view of the highway or any intersecting highway.

3.6 Ornaments

No person is permitted to drive a motor vehicle on the highway having any ornaments or decorations, either inside or outside of the vehicle, located so that they obstruct the vision or distract the attention of the driver.

3.7 Windshield Wipers

Windshield wipers shall be maintained in good working order.

3.8 Slow Moving Vehicle

Except when directly crossing the highway, every farm tractor and self-propelled implement of husbandry and any other type of vehicle prescribed by Regulation, when operated on a highway or any vehicle towed by them, shall have a slow moving vehicle emblem as prescribed by the Registrar attached to the rear thereof in accordance with the Regulations.

3.9 Mufflers

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a muffler and exhaust pipes in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. No person is allowed to use a muffler cut-out, by-pass or similar device, upon a motor vehicle on the highway.

3.10 Speedometer

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a speedometer in good working condition so as to show the speed at which the vehicle is travelling.

3.11 Height, Width and Length of Vehicle

A vehicle without a special permit may not exceed a total outside width, including load, of 260 centimetres (102 inches), a height of 415 centimetres (13 feet, 6 inches); in the case of a two or three axle vehicle which is 12.5 metres (40.6 feet) in length and in the case of a combination of vehicles coupled together, a length of 23 metres (75.5 feet) limited to two trailers while being hauled by a truck-tractor.

3.12 Studded Tires

It is permissible to use studded snow tires of a type approved by the Registrar at any time except during the period commencing on the first day of May and ending on the fifteenth day of October in every year. The use of studded tires may cause more of a skid in an emergency stop than rubber tires depending on road conditions.

3.13 Disabled Vehicles

Where a motor vehicle is disabled on a highway at nighttime, the operator shall forthwith place a portable reflector unit or standard at a distance of approximately 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear of the motor vehicle at or near the edge of the roadway.

The driver of a truck over 2 metres (80 inches) wide, passenger bus, motor vehicle towing a house trailer or a truck tractor is required to display three reflector units, one beside the vehicle, one 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear and the third 30 metres (100 feet) ahead of the disabled vehicle. A Safety Red Triangle is recognized as a portable reflector unit.

3.14 Safety Chain

Trailers and other objects or devices drawn by a motor vehicle on a highway must have a secondary means of attachment to the towing vehicle in the form of a "safety chain". The safety chain should not be attached to the hitch but to the frame/bumper portion of the vehicle.