

---

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<sup>(1)</sup> or the Road Traffic (Carriage of Dangerous Substances in Packages etc) Regulations 1986<sup>(2)</sup>

---

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

<sup>(2)</sup> S.I. 1986/1951.