

# High Mounted Brake Lamps

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For further information please write to the Manager – Vehicle Safety & Policy  
60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101 or contact your local Customer Service Centre.

## Introduction

The Standards for Registration requires passenger cars manufactured on or after 1 July 1989 to be fitted with a central high mounted stop lamp which complies with Australian Design Rule (ADR) No. 60/00. This ADR has since been applied to some other vehicles.

The information in this brochure is based on the requirements contained in that ADR and is intended to assist people who would like to fit a high mounted brake lamp to a vehicle which was not required to comply with ADR 60/...

## Guidelines

Lamps fitted according to these guidelines should be safe, give maximum benefit and comply with legal requirements.

1. One or more lamps may be fitted inside the vehicle directly onto the rear window or the on the outside of the rear of the vehicle.
2. A single lamp must be fitted centrally. If dual lamps are used, both must be fitted at the same height at equal distances from the centre of the vehicle.
3. If the lamps are fitted to the outside of the vehicle, no part of the lense should be lower than the bottom edge of the rear window by more than 152mm for convertibles and 77mm for other vehicles.
4. The lamps must not interfere with the operation of the original brake lamps.
5. When lit, the lamps should display a steady red light to the rear. Lamps which flash, pulsate or "move", or contain any written or graphic message are not allowed.

Previously, high mounted brake lamps were permitted to display the word "STOP". However, lamps fitted after 1 July 1989 should comply with the above requirement which is consistent with the Australian Design Rule.

6. Lamps should not incorporate any other functions such as turn signals, tail or reversing lamps.

7. The light emitted should not be bright enough to cause annoyance to anyone following and, as a guide, should not be brighter than a standard brake lamp.
8. the lamps should be securely attached to the vehicle so that they will not break away during normal use or in an accident when they could cause injury to the vehicle occupants. If fixed by suction cups these should also be glued to the vehicle with an epoxy resin or similar strength adhesive able to withstand high temperatures.
9. Care must be taken to ensure that the lamp and mounting do not interfere with seat belts, child restraints or their anchorages.
10. The lamps must face to the rear and must be fitted so that no part of the lense is visible from the driver's position, either directly or through the rear vision mirror, and so that there is no noticeable glare or reflection inside the vehicle when the brakes are applied.
11. All electrical wiring involved should be suitable terminated, insulated and supported. Care should be taken not to overload the original brake lamp circuit. An automotive electrician should be consulted if there is any doubt.
12. The lamps should be mounted so that, in the event of a crash or sudden vehicle manoeuvre it cannot be contacted by the head of a passenger in the rear seat; if mounted outside the vehicle, the lamp should not protrude beyond the profile of the vehicle as seen from the rear, nor be mounted in a manner likely to cause injury to any other road users.

## Driving Technique

While high mounted brake lamps may provide significant benefits, they are not a total protection against rear-end crashes. Driving speed and braking habits must continue to be suited to changing traffic, weather and road conditions. A safe stopping distance should be always maintained between vehicles, particularly in wet conditions.