

Flashing or Rotating Warning 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

A flashing or rotating warning lamp referred to in this brochure is a warning lamp, generally dome shaped, designed to be fitted to a vehicle or implement and which when lit projects a flashing light clearly visible in normal daylight in all directions from a distance of not less than 200 metres. These warning lamps are additional to the hazard warning lamps required or permitted to be fitted to vehicles as original equipment.

The Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 only provides for the routine fitting of flashing or rotating warning lamps to "Exempt Vehicles" and "Special Use Vehicles". See PART A below.

Certain other vehicles, because of their design and/or use, may be permitted or required to be fitted with flashing or rotating yellow warning lamps to alert other road users of their presence or the presence of a potential hazard on a highway. See PART B below.

Part A

Vehicles which may be routinely fitted with flashing or rotating warning lamps

1. Exempt Vehicles

Vehicles which are included in the category of "exempt vehicles" are:

1.1 Police vehicles

These vehicles may be fitted with red and blue flashing or rotating warning lamps.

1.2 Emergency vehicles

These vehicles are defined in the Road Rules - Victoria as:-

- (a) a vehicle operated by or on behalf of and under the control of—
 - (i) an ambulance service created by section 23 of the Ambulance Services Act 1986 or listed in Schedule 1 to that Act; or

- (ii) an ambulance service created under a law in force in another State or in a Territory of the Commonwealth that the Minister, by notice published in the Government Gazette, declares to be an ambulance service to which this paragraph applies;

- (b) a vehicle operated as an ambulance by the Australian Defence Force;

- (c) a fire service unit under the control of—

- (i) the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board; or
- (ii) the Department of Sustainability and Environment; or

- (iii) the Country Fire Authority; or,

- (iv) the Australian Defence Force;

- (d) a vehicle under control of the State Emergency Service;

- (e) a vehicle being used to convey an officer of the Corporation or of the Department of Transport engaged in connection with the enforcement of-

- (i) the Road Safety Act 1986; or

- (ii) the Transport Act 1983-
in accordance with sections 216 and 217 of the Transport Act 1983-

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- (f) a vehicle being used to convey a member of the Australian Army engaged in connection with emergency ordnance disposal procedures.

- (g) a vehicle under the control of the Shepparton Search and Rescue Squad Inc. or the Echuca and Moama Search and Rescue Squad Inc.

Fire Brigade, Ambulance and State Emergency Service vehicles may be fitted with red and blue flashing or rotating warning lamps. Unless otherwise approved by the Roads Corporation, other emergency vehicles

may be fitted with yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps except that Roads and Department of Transport vehicles as described in (e) may be fitted with magenta flashing or rotating warning lamps. Vehicles owned or operated by the Australian Protective Service, Australian Customs Service or Airservices Australia may be fitted with one or more flashing or rotating warning lamps of a colour determined by VicRoads.

2. Special Use Vehicles

These vehicles are defined as vehicles built or fitted for use in hazardous situations on the road.

Examples:

- (i) vehicles used by organisations such as power, water and gas supply companies for maintenance and repair work which may involve activities on a road in a hazardous position;
- (ii) vehicles used by organisations for road construction, maintenance or repair work which may necessitate the vehicle being in a hazardous position on a road;
- (iii) garbage trucks designed and used for the collection of domestic or industrial garbage;
- (iv) special purpose vehicles primarily designed for the transport of over-dimensional loads and pilot vehicles used as escorts for over-dimensional loads;
- (vi) vehicles such as tow trucks and vehicle breakdown service vehicles which, because of their function, may be required to be placed in a hazardous position on a highway.

These vehicles may be fitted with yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps. The Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 require pilot vehicles to be fitted with one or two flashing or rotating yellow lamps mounted on the roof of the vehicle either above or below or on each side of the warning sign.

Part B

Vehicles which may be permitted or required to be fitted with flashing or rotating warning lamps.

1. Agricultural Machines

Over dimensional self propelled agricultural machines are required to be fitted with one or two yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps when driven on a highway.

If an over dimensional agricultural implement is towed on a highway, one or two yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps must be fitted as close as practicable to the highest point of the combination.

2. Tractors

Tractors intended to be used on a highway at night with the headlamps spaced less than 600mm apart must be fitted with one yellow flashing or rotating warning lamp.

3. Hazardous Site Vehicles

Vehicles which perform most of their activities on a hazardous site such as a road or building construction site, an airport or an industrial, manufacturing or mining site where occupational health and safety requirements require the fitting and use of yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps may be fitted with such lamps. However, these lamps must not be operated when the vehicle is not within the hazardous site and should be removed or covered once the vehicle is no longer employed on such a site.

4. Other Vehicles

In special situations, other vehicles such as over width trailers used in agriculture not included above may need to be fitted with flashing or rotating yellow warning lamps because of their construction or intended use. To legally fit and use such lamps these vehicles will need to be conditionally registered.

4.1 Application for Conditional Registration

Application for conditional registration may be made at any VicRoads Customer Service Centre.

To assist in considering the application, the following information should be provided:

- (a) Type, make and model of vehicle or equipment including engine and vehicle identification numbers and the registration number, if registered.
- (b) The type of work or activity in which the vehicle or equipment will be engaged.
- (c) A clear description of the environment and roads on which the vehicle or equipment will operate.
- (d) Justification for the fitting of yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps, i.e. reasons why the work or activity has to be done in a manner, or with a vehicle of a type, that presents a hazard or reasons why it could not be done in another way or using a different vehicle which would eliminate the hazard.

4.2 Conditions

Generally, in use conditions will apply to these vehicles. In such cases the notice of conditions or endorsed registration certificate (where issued) must be carried in the vehicle at all times, and the lamps may only be used in accordance with those conditions.

In the event of disposal of the vehicle, the lamps must be removed.

Part C

Fitting of flashing or rotating warning lamps

At least one lamp of the correct colour must be mounted on top of the vehicle and when lit be visible in normal daylight from any direction at a distance of not less than 200 metres. Additional lamp(s) of the correct colour may be fitted to the vehicle. Where it is not possible to see the one lamp from any direction, additional lamp(s) of the correct colour must be fitted to the vehicle.

No part of the lens of any lamp must be visible either directly or indirectly to the driver when seated in the normal driving position.

If more than one warning lamp is fitted, they must be placed symmetrically about the centre line of the vehicle or combination of vehicles.

Part D

Use of yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps

Generally, yellow flashing or rotating warning lamps may only be illuminated when the vehicle to which the lamp is fitted is stationary. However, where the vehicle is:

- (a) performing road maintenance operations, street sweeping or collecting garbage in a manner which requires stopping "door to door";
- (b) carrying a wide load;
- (c) an escort vehicle;
- (d) an oversized agricultural machine or implement or oversize trailer used in agriculture; or
- (e) a tractor as described in PART B, section 2;

the lamp(s) may be lit when the vehicle or implement is moving.