

# Chapter 1: Lighting and Optical Signals

The function of the lighting of a vehicle is **to see and be seen by other users** of the road.

## When driving

Between sunset and sunrise or in adverse conditions (Night, rain, fog, etc.) or tunnels:

a) Urban roads and cross-town roads:

- Sufficiently lit: Sidelights (UK) / Position lamps (USA) + Headlights (dipped beam (UK) / low-beams headlights (USA))
- Insufficiently lit: Sidelights (UK) / Position lamps (USA) + Headlights (dipped beam (UK) / low-beams headlights (USA))

b) On interurban roads:

- Sufficiently lit: Sidelights (UK) / Position lamps (USA) + Headlights (dipped beam (UK) / low-beams headlights (USA))
- Insufficiently lit: Sidelights (UK) / Position lamps (USA) + High beams

It is mandatory to replace high beams with dipped/low beam headlights if there is glare.

If you are traveling at **40km/h or less** on an insufficiently lit inter-urban road, you may use low beam headlights instead of high beams.

A road is considered insufficiently lit when: you cannot read a registration (UK) / license (USA) plate from 10 metres or cannot make out a dark vehicle from 50 metres.



**Sidelights / Position lights:**

Vehicle lighting for us to be seen, both from the front and the back.



**Low-beams headlights (Dipped headlights):**

In passenger cars 2 are required, 1 or 2 for motorcycles.



**Main / high-beam headlights:** In passenger cars 2 or 4 are required, 1 or 2 for motorcycles.



### Front fog lights (white or selective yellow lights):

- Can be used in adverse conditions except in light rain
- Optional
- Can be used in narrow stretches of road with the dangerous bends sign at night



### Rear fog lights (red lights):

- Used only in very adverse conditions: very heavy rain, snow, dense fog, dense smoke or dust
- Required
- Optional on motorcycles

## Lighting when immobilized







**STOPPING (TEMPORARY & INTENTIONALLY):** Between sunset and sunrise, always use front side/position lights both in and out of a built-up area.

**DETENTION (FORCED/OBLIGATED):** Between sunset and sunrise, always use front side/position lights both in and out of a built-up area. In case of emergency you should also turn on the emergency lights. During the day, only use the emergency lights.

**PARKING:** Between sunset and sunrise (night), front position lights, except:

- **Urban roads:** no lights are left on.
- **Cross-town roads:** front position lights may be replaced by parking lights or the two sidelights / position lights on the road side.

# Other lights

	<p><b>Reflective markers:</b> Passenger cars must have reflective markers of the same colour as the lights. Their shape must not be triangular, except for trailers which are triangular.</p>
	<p><b>End outline marker lights:</b> Mandatory for vehicles measuring more than 2.10 metres, except motorcycles and 3-wheeled vehicles.</p>
	<p><b>Interior light:</b> Not mandatory for passenger cars.</p>
	<p><b>Vehicle registration number plate light:</b> Illuminates when side/position lights are turned on.</p>
	<p><b>Reverse lights:</b> white colour, and lights up when reversing. 1 light is mandatory and 2 optional.</p>
	<p><b>Emergency lights (flash simultaneously):</b> Yellow. Required on passenger cars and optional on motorcycles. May be used when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is a risk of collision by braking on the motorway and dual carriageway</li> <li>• Immobilization or driving in an emergency</li> <li>• Emergency services in a non-priority vehicle</li> </ul>



**Brake light:** Bright red. Passenger cars are required to have at least 2 and optionally 3, and in motorcycles 1 is required and 2 are optional.



**Adaptive lights:** Improve visibility in certain situations, such as at a curve or an intersection.

