

FAQs on the use of Work (Ploughing) Lamps

What is a work lamp?

Work lamps, commonly referred to as ploughing lamps, are fitted to the back of agricultural tractors and self-propelled machinery (as illustrated below) to give extra visibility when working on the farm.

What is the law on using work lamps?

Work (ploughing) lamps may be used in your own private area i.e. field, farmyard etc. but it is illegal to use these on the public road so they must be switched off beforehand.

Why is illegal to have work lamps switched on when using the public road?

Road Traffic Regulations ban the use of white lights to the rear of any vehicle in a public place. In times of darkness it can confuse motorists into thinking that a vehicle is approaching. Only red and amber lighting should appear on the back of a vehicle, not white lamps. In addition, these work lamps are highly powered which can cause other road users to be temporarily blinded which is a serious road safety concern.

For further advice and information on the correct operation of agricultural machinery, including lighting, please view the RSA's plain-English booklet titled [Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles](#).

The RSA has also produced videos which visually demonstrate these rules and are available to watch on: www.youtube.com/RSAIreland

