

FAQs on Bull Bars on Vehicles

Under Irish Law, is it illegal to have bull bars fitted to your vehicle? No, however vehicles approved for the European market place may only be fitted with a type approved frontal protection system (bull bar) and this includes any modification after manufacture. There may be cases where older vehicles are fitted with non-approved bull-bars however under Irish Road Traffic Regulations, the fitment of non-essential projections is illegal, and so too is any modification to a vehicle which is liable to cause danger.

What specific legislation applies to the use of frontal protection systems (bull bars) on vehicles?

- EC Regulation 78/2009 lays down the requirements for the type-approval of motor vehicles relating to the protection of pedestrians and vulnerable road users. It is important to note that all frontal protection systems fitted or made available for fitting to new vehicles at registration or before entry in to service since 21 May 2007 must bear an E-mark. If it does not, then the vehicle would not be registered or allowed entry into service.
- Once vehicles are in service they must adhere to the requirements set out in the Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment & Use of Vehicles) Regulations (S.I. No. 190 of 1963). Article 32 states that vehicles ***“shall not have any inessential object in a position where it is likely to strike any person involved in a collision with the vehicle, unless injury is not likely to be caused by reason of the projection of the object”***. Furthermore Article 96 states that ***“every vehicle while used in a public place shall be such, and so maintained and used, that no danger is likely to be caused to any person”***. Owners or drivers of vehicles breaching these regulations may be found guilty of an offence under Section 11 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 as amended.

What is meant by a type approved / legal bull bar? An approved bull bar bears an ‘E’ or ‘e’ mark, and the original manufacturer has declared that this bull bar can be fitted to your particular make and model of vehicle.

My bull bar is E marked but I don’t know if it can legally be fitted to my model of vehicle. Where do I find out? Please contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor.

Will I fail the roadworthiness test if I have a bulbar on my vehicle? If your bull bar is found to be safe, secure, and not worn or damaged as to be likely to cause danger, it will pass. The Reasons for Failure for exterior fittings/cab and bodywork are outlined on page 56 of the [CVRT Manuals](#)

Is it legal to retrofit Bull Bars to a vehicle? If you retrofit a bull bar to your vehicle, it is considered a modification and as such you may need to present a modifications report at your vehicle’s next roadworthiness test. This modifications report should be certified by the original manufacturer/authorised distributor or a suitably qualified person i.e. a mechanical engineer.

Where can I get a modifications report? To download the modifications report template, please click [here](#) if your vehicle is tested at an NCT test centre or [here](#) if your vehicle is tested commercially.

Is it legal to have a "Winch Bumper"? It is specifically designed for my vehicle. Yes, but only if it was approved for fitment to your vehicle by the original manufacturer. You may be asked to present written proof of this in order to pass the roadworthiness test.