

FAQs on the Use of Fog Lights

Do vehicles have to be fitted with fog lights (front or rear)? Front fog lights are optional and there is no legal obligation to have them fitted. More expensive makes and models of cars may have them fitted. Rear fog lights are mandatory as part of the system of type approval. All new cars entering the European marketplace since 1998 are required to be type approved and therefore must be fitted with rear fog lights. Type Approval was extended to other vehicles subsequently and a list can be viewed [here](#).

What is the law on using fog lights? The Road Traffic (Lighting of Vehicles) Regulations 1963 to 2014 [S.I. No. 189 of 1963](#) outlines which lights a vehicle must be fitted with and also how/when they must be used. Fog lights must only be used if you cannot see more than 100 metres in front of the vehicle (about 25 car lengths) in dense fog or falling snow. This includes night-time driving. Fog lights must be switched off when visibility improves.

Why is it illegal to have fog lights on during normal visibility? Fog lights are extremely bright and powerful and if used when there is no dense fog or falling snow, can cause glare and dazzle to other drivers which is illegal under the Road Traffic (Lighting of Vehicles) Regulations.

My vehicle's fog lights are damaged and need to be replaced. Are there any specific requirements? Replacement of fog lights should be replaced with 'like with like' and type approved where possible (E-Mark) and if in doubt contact your vehicle manufacturer for exact specifications.

Can I retrofit fogs lights to my vehicle if it doesn't have them? Yes, however not all vehicles can have fog lights fitted due to physical constraints so please contact your vehicle's original manufacturer or authorised distributor first. If your vehicle can be fitted with fog lights they should conform to UNECE R 19-04. This European regulation specifies the technical requirements which fog lights are required to meet i.e. number, markings, intensity and colour. Please click [here](#) to view these requirements in detail.

What colour should fog lights be? Front fog lights should be either white or selective yellow. The rear fog light should be red – this can be a red bulb in a clear lens, a red lens with a clear bulb or a combination of both red bulb and red lens.

Will a vehicle fail the roadworthiness test if it doesn't have fog lights fitted? It is not mandatory for fog lights to be fitted to vehicles however where fitted they must work, otherwise the vehicle will fail its roadworthiness test. Please see the reasons for failure on Page 52 of NCT [Manual](#)

Can fog lights be removed from a vehicle and will it pass the NCT? It is illegal to make changes to a vehicle which may increase the danger liable to be caused thereby. The removal of a fog light could be construed as such and therefore illegal to remove.

Are fog lights required on HCV's? Fog lights are not mandatory to be fitted to a HCV, but where they are fitted they must be working.