

# Vehicle Standards Instruction

## Advertising signs and additional lighting fitted to a vehicle

September 2021

The purpose of this Vehicle Standards Instruction (VSI) is to clarify a number of issues relating to illuminated signs and additional lights fitted to various classes of vehicles. There appears to be some confusion around the legality of these items.

### Advertising and Destination Signs

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The Department of Transport and Main Roads allows the fitting of advertising signs on all vehicles and destination signs on buses. These vehicles prominently display advertising material or information that, in some cases, is illuminated.

Vehicles equipped as mobile advertising units must continue to comply with all the construction and equipment requirements of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021 (VSS Regulation)*, including the dimensional limits. Any item used as part of the advertising display, or to operate it, must be attached to the vehicle in such a way that the vehicle can be safely operated under the requirements of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009 (Road Rules)*. These vehicles must also comply with the additional requirements described in this VSI.

Advertising display units must be securely attached to the vehicle and must not have any sharp edges or projections. The display units must not obscure the vehicle's mandatory lighting equipment or restrict the driver's field of view.

The use of highly reflective material must not be used in the advertising or destination sign.

### Illuminated Displays

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Where the advertising or destination display is illuminated, the following requirements apply;

- Flashing lights must not be used to draw attention to the display, or illuminate any part of the sign
- Any external lighting used to illuminate the advertising display must not be directly visible to the driver of the vehicle
- Internal low-level illumination may be used to light translucent panels provided the level of illumination is sufficiently low so as to avoid glare, either for the driver or other road users

### Television Receivers and Visual Display Units

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If a television receiver, visual display unit or similar device is used in the advertising display, it must not be operating while the vehicle is moving, or is stationary but not parked, if any image on the screen is;

- Visible to the driver from the normal driving position, and/or
- Likely to distract another driver

## Additional Lighting

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A lamp for the temporary purpose of reading signs, examining and/or making adjustments or repairs to the vehicle and /or managing its load (e.g. search lamp or work light) can be used, provided;

- The vehicle is stationary, and the light is being used for making adjustments or repairs to a vehicle, or being used in an “off road” situation
- The light is used temporarily to read a house number or notice board

**Note:** A driver must not use, or allow to be used, any light fitted to or in the driver's vehicle which is likely to dazzle another road user.

## Cosmetic Lighting

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Vehicle enthusiasts sometimes customise or modify their vehicles to give it a distinctive appearance, custom paintwork, mag wheels, murals and in some cases fit coloured or white decorative lights. The fitting and use of these additional lights (cosmetic) are now prohibited in Queensland under the current legislation.

**Note,** under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021*, the owner/operator of a vehicle must ensure any modification has been appropriately approved before the vehicle is used on a road.

## Further Information

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Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sl-2021-0114>

Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2009-0194>

For more information about this VSI, please email [vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au)