

Vehicle Standards Guide 10 (VSG-10)

Backlit badges and logos

This guide provides advice to the heavy vehicle owners and modifiers about the fitment and use of backlit badges and logos on heavy vehicles.

Background

In 2016 the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has issued clarification about the fitting of backlit badges and logos to vehicles, allowing these to be fitted if they meet certain requirements.

To align with this clarification, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) issued an exemption notice to allow the fitment and use of backlit badges and logos on in-service vehicles while more permanent arrangements were made.

ADR13/00 now states that backlit badges that meet certain requirements (detailed below) are not treated as a lamp for the purpose of applying the ADR. The NHVR exemption notice has now been discontinued as it is no longer required.

The fitment of backlit badges and logos to a heavy vehicle is a minor modification and **does not require approval** from an Approved Vehicle Examiner (AVE) or the NHVR. The vehicle must continue to be within the manufacturer's specifications and comply with the national heavy vehicle safety standards.

Requirements

A heavy vehicle may be fitted with one or more backlit badges or logos (BLB), provided they meet the following requirements:

- the light source is integrated within, and contained completely within the dimensions of, the BLB
 - the BLB must only show:
 - white or yellow to the front of the vehicle; or
 - yellow to the side of the vehicle; or
 - red or yellow to the rear of the vehicle
 - the BLB must not be any colour other than red, white or yellow
 - the BLB must not have a light intensity of more than 60 candella
 - the BLB must be constant and not flash or change luminous intensity in any way
- the illuminated part of the BLB must not be visible to the driver of the vehicle when in the normal seated driving position, whether it is visible directly or by reflection.
 - the BLB must not be so large that it negatively impacts the prominence of any mandatory light (headlamp, direction indication etc)
 - the BLB is connected so that it only operates with the vehicle's front lighting system (daytime running, parking and head lamps). A separate switch may be used to allow the badge or logo to be turned off independently, provided it only comes on when a light in the front lighting system is on.

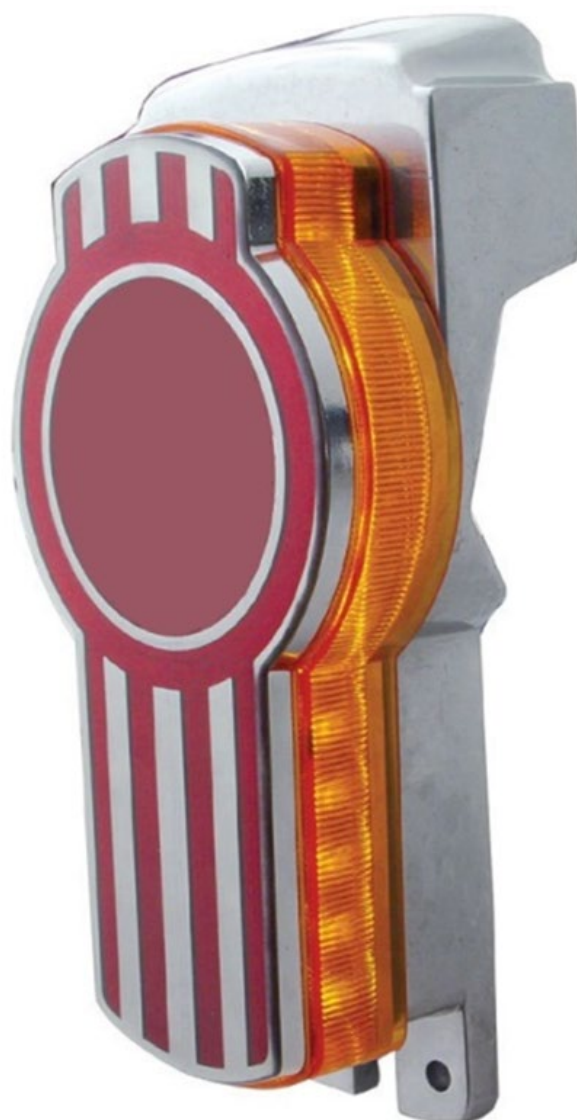


Figure 1: Example of backlit badge fitted with an orange light

Non-compliant backlight badges or logos

Backlit badges or logos that do not comply with the requirements above are non-compliant lights and are prohibited under the Heavy Vehicle National Law. Fitting of non-compliant light is a contravention of the *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation* and makes a vehicle defective.

Chain of Responsibility

Under the Chain of Responsibility (CoR) laws, relevant parties in the transport supply chain have a duty to ensure the safety of their transport activities.

Parties in the chain have an obligation to eliminate or minimise potential harm or loss (risk) by doing all that is reasonably practicable in their business to ensure safety.

Implementing a system to ensure you are informed of changes to the vehicle safety standards and apply these to your business can support transport safety.

Complying with the Heavy Vehicle National Law

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure their vehicle complies with the *Australian Design Rules* (ADRs) and *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation*. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle on a road is an offence.

A defective heavy vehicle is a vehicle that:

- does not comply with the heavy vehicle safety standards; or
- has a part that does not perform its intended function; or
- has deteriorated to an extent that it cannot be reasonably relied on to perform its intended function.

Penalties can include on-the-spot fines or prosecution. Formal warnings or a defect notice may also be issued. For more information see the Heavy vehicle defects—Compliance and enforcement bulletin at www.nhvr.gov.au/ce-bulletins.

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe
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