

Part 3: Equipment

This section deals with mandatory and optional equipment for your vehicle as well as suggestions for safer road use.

3.1 Lights

No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at nighttime or any other time when there is not sufficient light to see a person or vehicle on the highway at a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) unless the vehicle is equipped with and displays lighted lamps and illuminating devices as required for the class of vehicle.

Daytime running lights

Beginning with the model year 1990, all new vehicles must be equipped with daytime running lights which activate automatically. A vehicle using these lights is more easily seen by other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Older vehicles may be modified to allow for automatic daytime running lights.

All vehicles operated on New Brunswick roadways must display daytime running lights. If a vehicle is not equipped with daytime running lights or they are inoperable, then headlights must be turned on at all times. Failing to do so may result in a fine and the loss of points.



Headlamps

Every motor vehicle, except a motorcycle or motor driven cycle, must have at least two headlamps displaying white light. One must be attached to each side of the vehicle not more than 140 centimeters (55 inches) from the ground and not less than 60 centimeters (24 inches).

They must have high beams that clearly show ahead for 100 metres (330 feet) and low beams that show 30 metres (100 feet).

High beams must be dimmed within 150 metres (500 feet) of an approaching vehicle. When following another vehicle within 60 metres (200 feet) low beams must be used except when in the act of passing.

Motorcycle lamps

Every motorcycle must be equipped with at least one and not more than three head lamps displaying white light. The light must be strong enough to reveal a person or vehicle at 100 metres (330 feet) when speed is 60 km (35 miles) per hour or more.

Rear lamps

Every motor vehicle, trailer, etc. and the last vehicle in a train of vehicles must have at least two red tail lights mounted one on either side of the rear of the vehicle at a height of not more than 183 centimetres (72 inches) and not less than 38 centimetres (15 inches). This light must be visible from a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) to the rear. Every vehicle must be equipped with a white light to illuminate the rear licence plate and make it clearly legible at a distance of 15 metres (50 feet).

Brake lights

Motor vehicles operating on a highway must be equipped with a red brake light or lights. The light(s) must be plainly visible from a distance of 30 metres (100 feet).

Signal devices

Most motor vehicles are equipped with a light or lights or mechanical signal devices capable of clearly indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left. Such signal devices must be visible both from the front and the rear from a distance of 30 metres (100 feet).

Flashing or revolving lights

The use of flashing or revolving lights on motor vehicles is restricted.

A flashing or revolving red light visible from the front and rear may only be used on: (1) ambulance; (2) a police or fire department vehicle; (3) a school bus while taking on or unloading passengers.

A school bus may be equipped with flashing amber lights.

In addition, flashing amber lights may be used on a vehicle transporting explosives or a motor vehicle towing a wide trailer.

Four way flashers

When a vehicle is equipped with a switch permitting the parking and tail lights to flash, the flashing lights can be used when the vehicle is parked on the highway or any portion thereof due to an emergency or under circumstances beyond the control of the driver.

Spot lamps

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one spot light. It cannot be aimed to shine directly on or within 30 metres (100 feet) in front of an approaching vehicle.

Fog lamps

Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two fog lamps and they can only be used when the headlights of the vehicle are on low beam.

3.2 Brakes

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with an adequate foot brake and an emergency brake in good working order.

3.3 Horn

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order that can be heard for a distance of not less than 60 metres (200 feet) but a horn must not emit an unreasonably loud, harsh sound. The horn should be sounded whenever it is necessary to ensure safe operation of a vehicle or to give warning of the approach of a vehicle.

Except for authorized emergency vehicles, no siren, whistle or bell is to be used.

3.4 Mirror

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror located to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 60 metres (200 feet) to the rear of the vehicle. Portable door or fender mirrors are illegal when not towing a trailer or another vehicle.

3.5 Windshields and windows

All windshields and windows must be kept clear of any signs, posters or other non-transparent material which obstruct the driver's clear view of the highway or any intersecting highway.

3.6 Ornaments

No person is permitted to drive a motor vehicle on the highway having any ornaments or decorations, either inside or outside of the vehicle, located so that they obstruct the vision or distract the attention of the driver.

3.7 Windshield wipers

Windshield wipers are required on a motor vehicle and must be maintained in good working order.

3.8 Mufflers

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a muffler and exhaust pipes in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. No person is allowed to use a muffler cut-out, by-pass or similar device, on a motor vehicle on the highway.

3.9 Speedometer

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a speedometer in good working condition so as to show the speed at which the vehicle is travelling.

3.10 Height, width and length of vehicle

Without a special permit, a vehicle may not exceed a total outside width, including load, of 260 centimetres (102 inches), a height of 415 centimetres (13 feet, 6 inches); in the case of a two or three axle vehicle which is 12.5 metres (40.6 feet) in length and in the case of a combination of vehicles coupled together, a length of 23 metres (75.5 feet) limited to two trailers while being hauled by a truck-tractor.

3.11 Studded tires

It is permissible to use studded snow tires of a type approved by the Registrar between October 15th and April 30 of every year.

DID YOU KNOW?...

The use of studded tires may cause more of a skid in an emergency stop than rubber tires depending on road conditions.

3.12 Safety chain

Trailers and other objects or devices drawn by a motor vehicle on a highway must have a secondary means of attachment to the towing vehicle in the form of a safety chain. The safety chain should not be attached to the hitch but to the frame or bumper of the vehicle.