



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Transportation Safety Division

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Use of fog and auxiliary lights a matter of law

With increasing numbers of vehicles on the road with auxiliary or “fog” lights, state transportation safety officials are reminding people that there are laws regarding their use.

“Many drivers are unaware of the law which pertains to the proper use of fog and/or auxiliary lights, which many vehicles are now coming equipped with,” says Stan Porter of ODOT Transportation Safety, “the laws are there for a reason—and that reason is safety.”

According to Oregon law: Auxiliary driving lights and/or fog lights must be used like the high beam headlight system of your car. You must use a distribution of light or composite beam so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver. Fog lights may be either white or amber (yellow). They may not be blue, bluish or any other color than white or amber. In addition, the 2001-2003 Oregon Driver Manual states it is also illegal to have auxiliary lights or fog lights on by themselves or on at times when you are required to dim your headlights. These very bright lights make it difficult for oncoming drivers to see.

If you plan to install fog and/or auxiliary lights as an after market feature, it is important to know that Oregon has adopted the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and Equipment Standards. If a manufacturer does not meet those, they are required to label their products to notify the public that the product is not to be used on the street. Manufacturers must meet or exceed SAE and/or DOT manufacturing standards to market their products for street use.

For more information on Vehicle Equipment and Standards, please visit the web at:

http://www.odot.state.or.us/transafety/Veh_Equipment.htm. Also, see the Oregon Driver Manual online at: http://www.oregondmv.com/forms/manuals_forms.htm.

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