

Regulatory Requirements of “HID” Head Lamps for the Public

(Revision 2)

1. In Hong Kong, Regulation No. 97 and 98 in Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations, Cap 374A stipulate that beams of all headlamps shall be derived from filaments. As such, HID (High Intensity Gas Discharge) headlamps are illegal, unless approved by TD under exemption.
2. Regulation No 102 of Cap 374A also stipulates that the color of beams emitted by headlamps shall be **white** or **yellow**.
3. All headlamps must be capable of emitting adequately aligned dipped beams. Regulation 2 of Cap 374A requires that they should be adjusted to the extent that they are at all times incapable of dazzling any person who is 8 meters or more in the front and his eye-level is 1 meter or more above the ground. As such, an adequately adjusted dipped beam shall not cause discomfort to others.
4. At present, there are two types of “HID” headlamps being commonly found in Hong Kong:
 - i) **Original Vehicle Equipment** - They are original service parts of vehicle manufacturers meeting specific international standards, and the dipped beams could meet the requirement under Cap 374A. In principle, they do not cause glaring or dazzle problems. With sufficient documents certifying that they meet the international standards, they are likely to be approved by TD.
 - ii) **Retrofit Kit Conversion** - They are converted from filament headlamps by replacing the bulbs with “HID” light tubes. Retrofit type HID headlamps in most cases do not meet this requirement by construction. They glare and adversely affect other road users. **TD have so far approved no such conversion, and shall unlikely approve any such conversion**
5. There are cases of alteration of conventional headlamp light bulbs with filament light bulbs of higher power over the original manufacturer’s specifications. The body of the bulb is painted blue. They replace directly the conventional 55W light bulbs and emit white light. However the wire conduits may not be capable of sustaining the higher load, rendering overheating and even fire. Such replacements are also unlikely to get any approval from TD because the vehicles shall not meet the requirement of dipped beam of headlamp under Regulation 2 of Cap. 374 and the existence of safety concern.

6. Vehicles that do not meet the legal requirements or that have been modified as such without TD's approval may have their licences being suspended. The driver and the owner may also be prosecuted; the maximum penalty shall be a fine of \$10,000 and an imprisonment for 6 months.
7. For any complaints against "HID" headlamps of any vehicles, please contact Vehicle Inspection Office at Tel.: 2867 4698, fax: 2525 7596 to follow up.
8. For any queries regarding "HID" headlamps from vehicle owners and device suppliers, please contact our Senior Motor Vehicle Examiner at Tel.: 2753 9130.

Transport Department
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